

HOME NEWS

Report on political activities of civil servants postponed

Kennessy
The report of the Committee on political activities of civil servants, which was due to be published this month, will be postponed until the end of the year. The committee, which is still engaged in a search for compromise recommendations that would allow civil servants to pursue their political interests without good reason, such as a close working relationship with ministers, can be shown to require otherwise.

Several members of the committee, on the other hand, were much impressed by evidence from the permanent heads of the Department of Health and Social Security and the Inland Revenue, which employ 170,000 officials between them, that a mere trickle of requests (about 26 each year from health and 34 from revenue) were received for waivers of the present rules.

The lack of demonstrable demand hardly sustains the vociferous passion with which the issue has been invested in recent years by the more politically minded members of the Civil Service unions.

To counteract such scepticism, general secretaries of the staff associations have argued before the committee, some effect it would seem, that extending political liberty up the Civil Service hierarchy might help to curb the growing politicization of their unions.

They claim that lack of a recognized outlet for political convictions has led to some officials making harsh, public criticisms of government policy, on wage restraint for example, within the forum of their trade unions.

The staff side have also urged Sir Arthur to think in a long-term context. The committee must produce a report, they said, to last until the end of the century rather than a mere reaffirmation of the status quo.

Whitehall remains pessimistic about the chances of a unanimous report. At best, notes of dissent will probably be attached to certain recommendations. The most trying issue to be resolved is the treatment of relatively junior graded officials in face-to-face contact with the public in local offices of the Inland Revenue, Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Employment.

Whether conspicuous political activity in their local communities jeopardizes public confidence in their impartiality is the question to be answered.

Specific classes could cause difficulty, such as Whitehall's information officers, even if the restricted ceiling is raised to senior executive officer level. The position of young administration trainees, destined for rapid advancement to principal level could also require anomalous treatment.

One Whitehall doubter said this week: "They are exactly at the age when people are most confused. Many of them come out of university with continuing political fantasies."



In trim: Crew members completing final preparations for the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race, starting from Portsmouth today. Finishers are expected to return early next April. (John Nicholls, page 21.)

84 women affected by fumes in factory accident

From Our Correspondent
Sheffield
Eighty-four women were taken to hospital yesterday after fumes seeped into the factory of Iral Ltd, at Chapeltown, near Sheffield. Some of the women, who were working in a packing department, had difficulty breathing and others fainted.

The building was evacuated and ambulances took them to four hospitals. All but 10 were allowed to go home after treatment.

A 40-gallon drum of formaldehyde was punctured in a warehouse next to the packing department. Fumes seeped into the packing department.

Firemen sealed off the area and used breathing apparatus. Some of the liquid went into the works drains, which were later swilled out.

An official of Iral said: "Something fell on the drum, which was on a shelf, and punctured it while a fork-lift truck driver was working in the warehouse. The women started feeling some discomfort and dizziness. The women who are being kept in hospital are there for further observation, but they are not seriously affected."

Britain's choppy seas are bad for bacteria

By Robin Young
Holidaymakers contemplating seething, storm-tossed seas, fraught with treacherous currents and too cold for all but the hardest to venture in, may find some small consolation in the fact that it is precisely those qualities that make British sea-water so hygienic.

The Mediterranean is a sunny sewer in comparison. In France violet-coloured flags wave above seriously polluted beaches. The Spaniards have identified 14 beaches that are "bacteriologically dirty", and fly yellow warning flags above others. In Italy beaches are intermittently closed to bathers because of organic pollution.

Such things, the Department of the Environment and the National Water Council say, are hardly likely to happen in Britain.

It is not that Britain has no outfalls for untreated sewage into the sea. There are more than three hundred main ones around the coast, and countless smaller ones. Many of them are in uncomfortable proximity to bathing beaches, in areas like the West Country, where it is not unheard of for sewage to be washed up on beaches.

Only one regional water authority, the Severn-Trent, has no large outfalls discharging untreated sewage into coastal waters.

But nobody gives bacteria much chance of survival in Britain's choppy seas. The authorities are quick to say that the recent EEC directive on bacteria levels in bathing water has little relevance to the British.

The South West Water Authority has taken an initiative in making pilot surveys of bacteriological pollution at chosen watering places around the Devon and Cornwall coasts. Twenty officers have just completed week-long stints of wading through the waves at Goodrington, Torbay and Bude, in Cornwall, and at Sidmouth and Croyde Bay in north Devon, armed with sampling phials.

The beaches were chosen not because of any sanitary deficiency but for their easy accessibility from the authority's laboratories.

The samplers' biggest difficulty has been the murkiness of the EEC directive, rather than of the British bathing water. "It is full of grey areas," an authority representative said. "It is not clear how they want measured, or how they want it measured, or even what they would define as a bathing beach."

"We have gone ahead and made up our own rules just to see what we would find, because of course there has been no previous experience of this sort of thing in Britain."

That is to say that water authorities have customarily sampled the waters at their sewage outfalls, but officials have never gone on bacteria hunts among the bathers before.

The job, now that it is being done, has been tackled thoroughly. "We have taken samples at different levels in the water, at different stages of the tide, and in different weather conditions," the authority said. "The results are still being analysed, but a report will be made to the authority's water quality committee later in the year."

Meanwhile work continues on ridding the coast of its persistent doses of raw sewage. Inland treatment works have recently been opened at Hayle, in Cornwall, and near Burnstaple, eliminating several crude outfalls in each case. Work is still to be done at Bideford. In the past three years the authority has reduced the number of main crude outfalls in its area from 80 to 70.

Such works were done not because of any acknowledged health risk but because the crude outfalls were deemed "aesthetically unacceptable". "Some of them have been there a very long time," the spokesman said apologetically, "and

Two children 'hanged' by boy of 13 in game

Two children were hanged until purple in the face after a boy aged 13 persuaded them it was part of a game, magistrates at Preston, Chy, were told yesterday.

The boy offered the children toys if they would play the game, then tied their hands, put a rope round their necks and kicked away a bucket they were standing on.

The children, aged six and seven, were put back on the bucket when their faces reddened, the boy, from near Preston, told police: "I did not mean to hurt anybody. When they were a bit purple, I freed them."

The boy admitted assaulting the children. He was remanded until next month for medical reports.

Government advised to sell Scots estates making a loss

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh
Ministers at the Scottish Office are studying a recommendation from the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee that the Government should take steps to dispose of estates and properties in Scotland that are being managed at a loss.

Last year the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland showed a trading loss of £1.5m on the 169 estates it manages. They cover about 400,000 acres.

Disposal of the land, much of it let under crofting tenure after the First World War to halt the flood of emigrants from the Highlands communities, is taken to mean sale on the open market. Such action would generate hostility, particularly among the Labour Party in Scotland.

Both the party and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, the Government's development agency in the area, have for some years sought schemes to bring more land into public ownership. To that end the board has pressed for stronger power to take over land compulsorily.

Through Professor Kenneth Alexander, its chairman, the board has developed positive views on land management, but more often than not has been frustrated in attempts to buy estates on the open market. The board is held to the ruling of the district valuer and as a result is outbid by private buyers.

It is felt that under the present system the board will be at a disadvantage before a compulsory purchase order inquiry since it could put forward only general development plans. Many proposals have gone ahead through agreement with landowners, but there have been some bitter wrangles; the most notable was on the island of Raasay, over land bought by an absentee landlord from the ministry in an earlier spate of sales.

Both the board and the Crofters Commission, the other government body involved in the management of Highlands land, are keenly interested in the Scottish Office decision. In many quarters in the Highlands the belief is strongly held that social considerations should outweigh economic arguments and that the security and welfare of those who work the land should be paramount.

Mrs Colquhoun to complain at application 'leak'

From Our Correspondent
Northampton
Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, Labour MP for Northampton, North, is to complain to Lambeth Council, London, after her application for a post had been "leaked".

She applied unsuccessfully for the £9,000-a-year post of full-time assistant director of leisure services at Lambeth. That was disclosed in a newspaper on Thursday.

She said last night: "I had no intention of taking the job. I was merely testing the water in the event that I would lose my marginal seat at the next election. In the meantime, I will continue fighting to remain as MP."

Earlier this week her constituency's general management committee voted by 21 to 12 to recommend that she should not be allowed to stand as their candidate at the next general election.

TV film sold abroad
The controversial Yorkshire Television documentary film, "The Case of Yolande McShane", has been sold to Belgium, where it will be shown next week, and also to France.

C E Heath wish "Heath's Condor" good luck and good sailing.

"Heath's Condor", the C E Heath-sponsored entry in the Whitbread Round-the-World Yacht Race, is a Bowman 77 designed by John Sharp and skippered by Robin Knox-Johnston and Les Williams. The first leg of the race, beginning today 27 August is from Portsmouth to Cape Town.

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WEST EUROPE

Minority government plan to end Dutch political crisis

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, Aug 26

Queen Juliana of The Netherlands today started talks with her political advisers and party leaders over the crisis caused by the second failure of Mr Joop den Uyl, the caretaker Prime Minister, to form a new coalition government.

Negotiations between Mr den Uyl's Socialist Party and the Christian Democrats, the two biggest parties after the May 25 elections, broke down last night over proposals for abortion law reforms. The Christian Democrats, led by Mr Andries van Agt, the Justice Minister and a Roman Catholic, bitterly opposed plans to allow women to choose for themselves whether to have an abortion.

In the May elections the Socialists won 53 seats, the Christian Democrats 49 and the conservative Liberal Party 27. Mr den Uyl hoped to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats and the Democrats-66 Party which would have controlled 110 seats in the 150-seat Lower House of Parliament.

Despite differences among the Queen's advisers, it seemed clear in The Hague today that only a minority government could end the political crisis. While the Socialists are not willing to form a coalition with the Lib-

erals, Christian Democrats do not share the Liberal view on economic and abortion policy and a coalition between them would in any case have only a one-seat majority.

A left-wing minority government would command only 61 seats. But it might have the support of the 49 Christian Democrats over social and economic policy and the backing of the Liberals for the abortion legislation.

Faced with the formal opening of a new parliamentary session in a month's time, Queen Juliana must decide as soon as possible who to invite.

The Hague, Aug 26.—It was the second time Mr den Uyl had withdrawn from his attempt to put together a coalition. In July, he gave up after a dispute with the Christian Democrats over proposed profit-sharing legislation. He resumed his efforts at the request of the Queen, and agreement was eventually reached.

This time the Christian Democrats flatly refused to negotiate with the Socialists over abortion law which allows termination only if doctors decide pregnancy is endangering a woman's life. Abortion clinics have been operating in defiance of the law for many years.—AP.

Basques injured in protest over detained ETA man

From Harry Debeñus
Madrid, Aug 26

At least eight people were seriously hurt in the latest demonstrations in the northern city of San Sebastián demanding the release of Señor Miguel Angel Apalategui, a Basque activist imprisoned in France, according to reports published here today.

The clashes occurred last night. An 18-year-old boy who was watching the demonstration from a second floor balcony was seriously hurt by a rubber bullet fired by police. Among the injured were two Spanish journalists.

Similar demonstrations took place in Bilbao and Santander, but no one was hurt. Meanwhile, Señor Apalategui, the man in the centre of the disturbances, continued his hunger strike at Beaumettes prison in France, to show his opposition to Spanish extradition requests. A member of the separatist organization ETA, he was arrested by the French authorities last June in connection with the kidnapping and

murder of a pro-Franco Spanish millionaire. The agitation in the Basque region is also related to a demand for full amnesty for political prisoners. A "freedom march" is expected to reach its final destination in the Basque region on Sunday, when tens of thousands of demonstrators will converge on the city of Pamplona.

The authorities fear possibly bloody clashes between the "freedom marchers" and right-wingers in Pamplona.

Madrid, Aug 26.—Police have banned two meetings in which Vanessa Redgrave, the British actress, was to have addressed Spanish Trotskyists. The week-long meetings were called in support of demands that the Government should legalize some banned leftist groups, among them the Trotskyist and other revolutionary groups.

Miss Redgrave, an executive member of the Workers' Revolutionary Party, came to Spain to be arrested by the Communist Workers' League, a small Trotskyist group.—UPI.

British tank offends nature group

From Our Correspondent
Boon, Aug 26

A court hearing the case between the German Nature Reserve Association and the West German state has ruled that the two parties must nominate an expert within a month to give evidence on whether British and Canadian tanks on manoeuvres use more space than necessary.

The case in the Lüneburg District Court concerns a byproduct of the 1959 Soltan-Lüneburg Agreement on Nato exercises in the Soltan and Lüneburg area. As a consequence of this agreement, the nature association was to lease its share of the Lüneburg heath to the state, and this area formed the bulk of the manoeuvre grounds, which constitute about a third of the 11,250-acre heath.

The nature association believes that the enforced use of tanks is unconstitutional. Furthermore, it says that a British or Canadian tank uses a training area of 460 acres whereas a rank from any other Nato country only of 15 acres.

The district court intends to hear the expert testimony on tanks before ruling on whether the case should go to the Federal Constitutional Court.

Kappler protest

Rome, Aug 26.—A bomb explosion today damaged the West German Consulate of Commerce office in Milan in what the police said, appeared to be a protest against the escape of the former SS Colonel Herbert Kappler, serving a life sentence for war crimes. No one was injured.

The region of the Midi-Pyrénées, of which Toulouse is the capital, has the second highest unemployment figure in France, after the Languedoc-Roussillon.

This is due primarily to the stagnation of aircraft construction centred on the South West, where nearly 2,000 employees are to be laid off, but also to the recession in the steel, textile and engineering industries of the area.

The trade unions and left-wing parties organized last night a mass demonstration to give M Barre a foretaste of the welcome he could expect. Union leaders decided to boycott his invitation to discuss problems with him. Local parliament-

Witness says Mr Menten 'kicked bodies into trench'

Amsterdam, Aug 26.—A witness from the Soviet Union said in court today that he saw Pieter Menten, the Dutch millionaire accused of war crimes, order a German firing squad to shoot two Polish villagers in 1941.

Mr Menten was repeatedly denied being in Podhorze at the time of the killings.—AP.

His court correspondent writes from the Hague: Mr Jan Schoeder, chief judge of the Amsterdam Court of Justice, today asked both the prosecution and defence counsel in the Menten case to stop contacts with the press.

During the trial, some magazines have published important documents from the files of both prosecution and defence. Both lawyers have given statements to the press.

Wanted Austrian leaps to death with his family

Berchtesgaden, Aug 26.—A 27-year-old Austrian sought by police in connexion with the robbery and murder of an elderly woman, threw his wife, his two children and his dog off a 1,200ft cliff and then leapt after them to his death.

The Bavarian police said today they found the bodies of Karl Reitzinger, his wife, Gudrun, and their children, aged seven and three, at the bottom of an Alpine cliff along the Austrian border.

Austrian officials said Herr Reitzinger was sought in connexion with last Monday's murder of a 61-year-old woman in the village of Marzsee, near Salzburg.

According to the police, Herr Reitzinger used ether to anaesthetize his wife and children and then pushed them off the cliff on Thursday.—AP.

He went on: "Frenchmen know there are bogus job seekers".

The Prime Minister's remarks coincided with efforts by M Christian Beullac, the Minister of Labour, to clarify the methods of registration at employment agencies in order to assess the extent of the problem. He is to report on a series of measures to achieve this at next week's Cabinet meeting. These would include striking off the lists of the unemployed those who persistently refuse the offer of jobs.

The Government is considering the British system of job centres, concerned exclusively with finding employment and registering the unemployed while the payment of benefits is kept separate under specialized departments of the Ministry of Labour.

Communists hit out at Lisbon authority

From Jose Shercliff
Lisbon, Aug 26

The communists reacted sharply today to the Portuguese Government's second batch of austerity measures announced last night which include the floating of the escudo.

The newspaper O Diário said in a headline "If the first package was bad, the second is going to be worse."

A Communist Party spokesman said: "The measures have no serious economic basis. They are just more political impositions with which the reactionaries are trying to reconstitute imperialism with its economic and political power."

A spokesman for the opposition Christian Democrats told The Times that the text of the measures announced by the Prime Minister yesterday would have to be analysed before the party could take a definite stand.

Leaders of the five parliamentary parties were informed yesterday of the general lines of the measures. The measures before they were made public by the Prime Minister.

Dr Sá Carneiro, the leader of the Social Democrats, said that in the light of the general information there was no reason for his party altering its policy of "critical divergence" from government policy. Within the past few weeks there has, however, been an approximation of views between the Socialists and Social Democrats.

At a press reception today, Dr Soares, the Prime Minister, showed himself optimistic about the results of the measures.

The one nearest to affecting daily life is the rise in the price of petrol and other liquid fuels from midnight last night. It is understood that the Government has prepared petrol rationing when and if necessary.

Lisbon, Aug 26.—Portugal's new floating exchange rate for the escudo, announced last night by Dr Soares, will take effect next week, Dr Victor Constancio, the deputy governor of the Bank of Portugal, told Reuters today.

He said that the fluctuation was expected to be about 1 per cent a month, rather than the lines of the system applied for the Brazilian cruzeiro. The adjustments would continue as long as inflationary pressures required it.

Interest rates on credits for consumer goods were increased from between 7 and 8 per cent. The Government was reviewing all import quotas.—Reuters.

Amin offer for assets of Asians

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Aug 26

Uganda is prepared to pay about £2.6m to more than 1,000 stateless Asians expelled in 1972 as compensation for assets left in Uganda. But only £360,000 will be paid now, with the remainder to be paid over the next 10 years with no interest.

This was announced today from Uganda, after discussions between a mission from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, representing the interests of those Asians who were expelled, and the Ugandan Government.

Uganda radio said that President Amin had rejected a plea from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the High Commissioner for Refugees, for the whole amount to be paid now. He declared that his offer was final and not subject to negotiation.

The majority of the expelled Asians were British, and no offer has yet been made to compensate them. Payment of an undisclosed amount has been made to the Government of India for those who were Indian citizens.

Mr Robert Astles, a British-born Ugandan citizen, has been given the rank of major in the Ugandan Army. He is the only white man with that rank, although other Britons who have taken Ugandan citizenship have been ennobled as members of President Amin's family reserve.

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OVERSEAS



Mr Sanjay Gandhi surrounded by the crowd outside the court in Delhi.

Crowd jostles Mr Sanjay Gandhi

Delhi, Aug 26.—Mr Sanjay Gandhi, son of the former Prime Minister of India, was jostled and denounced by a hostile crowd today during a brief court appearance in Delhi.

There were shouts of "Death to Sanjay Gandhi" in the packed court as the hearing ended. A group of his friends countered with: "Long live Sanjay Gandhi".

Mr Gandhi, who is 30, was a target of the voters' anger in the Indian elections last March that ended the 11-year rule of his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi. He is accused in several investigations and pending court cases of misusing influence and funds during his mother's administration, when both his friends and foes called him the "Crown Prince".

At today's hearing Mr Gandhi was allowed 10,000 rupees (£700) bail to avoid arrest in a case accusing him of improperly influencing the sale of defective purification chemicals to the Delhi water works.

The next hearing in that case was set for September 29. Mr Gandhi and his lawyers will have other court appearances in the coming days in other cases.

A shouting crowd of several hundred people packed the streets, staircases and corridors leading to the second floor court as Mr Gandhi arrived accompanied by a group of supporters.

Police, led by a turbanned inspector, forced a path through the crowd, but Mr Gandhi for a time lost his head and had to remove his horn-rimmed glasses. He gave an occasional smile and appeared calm but his lawyers complained that his safety was endangered.

A Delhi High Court judge, meanwhile rejected motions by Mr Gandhi and Mr Vidya Charan Shukla, the former Information Minister, seeking dismissal of a case accusing them of destroying a feature film satirizing power-crazed politicians.—AP.

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Mr Smith refuses to disband his forces

From Michael Kope
Salisbury, Aug 26

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, today said that he believed today that British and America could seriously propose the disbanding of the Rhodesian security forces as part of a constitutional settlement. He made it clear that if that was the case he would reject the proposals.

Speaking to reporters in Wankie, the north-western coal-mining centre where he was campaigning for next Wednesday's general election, he said he found it difficult to believe that such a suggestion was part of the proposals. "I can't believe that any person in his senses would advocate that," he said.

In view of the undertakings he had been given by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, such an idea would be a complete about-face and would show a lack of sincerity and integrity on Dr Owen's part.

The statement that the disbanding of the Rhodesian forces as part of the Anglo-American proposals was made by United States officials in a confidential briefing on the proposals given to American correspondents in Lagos earlier.

Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, was attending an anti-apartheid conference.

Mr Smith said that if the reports of the terms were correct he would not accept them. Dr Owen is due to visit Salisbury next Thursday.

Tomorrow, Mr Smith flies to South Africa where he will confer with Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, on the settlement issue. This meeting will coincide with talks in Lusaka between Dr Owen and Mr Young and Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the leaders of the Patriotic Front.

The Rhodesian Government today expressed concern that the Zambian Government might intend to place a large force of Zambian troops along the two countries' border. A Government statement said there had been 13 "unprovoked attacks" across the 449-mile border in the past month.

A spokesman said: "The Zambian Government probably intends some sort of provocative display across the border for the benefit of Dr Owen and Mr Young in the hope of provoking a Rhodesian reaction."

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Mr Smith refuses to disband his forces

From Michael Kope
Salisbury, Aug 26

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, today said that he believed today that British and America could seriously propose the disbanding of the Rhodesian security forces as part of a constitutional settlement. He made it clear that if that was the case he would reject the proposals.

Speaking to reporters in Wankie, the north-western coal-mining centre where he was campaigning for next Wednesday's general election, he said he found it difficult to believe that such a suggestion was part of the proposals. "I can't believe that any person in his senses would advocate that," he said.

In view of the undertakings he had been given by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, such an idea would be a complete about-face and would show a lack of sincerity and integrity on Dr Owen's part.

The statement that the disbanding of the Rhodesian forces as part of the Anglo-American proposals was made by United States officials in a confidential briefing on the proposals given to American correspondents in Lagos earlier.

Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, was attending an anti-apartheid conference.

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Saturday Review

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a dark, textured environment. The person is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, garment and is positioned in the center-left. The background is dark and appears to be a wall or a large object with a grid-like pattern. The image is heavily stylized with high contrast and grain.

by John Russell Taylor

One last story, for no particular reason, except that it is a friend of mine, a pious, middle-aged woman of *Mae West* for a *Holly* revue. It made her look, said, stumpy, and she did like it. He was summoning the presence, "Where is the *angel*," which entered at least; he has the discerning rectilinear aspect of *sic Neutral* (inside is some else again). She received the *angel* in the room immediately her bedroom, and he reconnected with him as most charming way. Yes, she was a beauty, but really, ugly caricature did not give the image of *Mae West* so on. Suddenly there was a *pop* from the bedroom came shining *Mae West* mockery. It threw itself ecstasy at attention upon a flash pulled aside the of her robe, revealing in glory one of the legs snowy breasts. Completely for a moment, observed "Jocko, you naughty monk adjusted her dress and right on with what she said, the puppet was that. It was a little less funny it was closer to *Mae West* the living legend. And after all, is what it's all about.

C. James Newspapers, Ltd.

Joy in life and love



Radio Resurrections

of radio's boasts—and this is often it. It has saved from oblivion work fallen into disrepair. The pair of a Marston plays which went to take up Antonio were probably to be seen as in this gory, but their reappearance suggested to me firstly that the sooner they fell neglect again, the sooner literary justice had been done. In this and other similar instances, I have learnt to reach the radio resurrection with some caution: my ears are not what they were, and I will not have in it what is needed to make it stand as a piece for radio in its right, that it will require considerable help from the per's imagination in order to survive how it might have off today. Antonio was much for all my powers of imagination, historical and all. Last Sunday brought her, small and even older: umation: Ardisio, whose obvious claim to attention that one member of the 191 family, Lorenzo, wrote or the marriage in 1536 of her, Duke Alessandro. How the revival fare?

think that for once it suggested not to the dying party probably spent their cheerful two hours in theatre, but that we might have the same today. It was even, more than intermittently, a enjoyable to listen to Ardisio's translation was by and contained some lines: John Tyndeman's duction moved briskly, but out that slight sense of veneration which so often kills presentation of antique edies. We heard what, on e and given a touch of e treatment, could turn a very presentable farce—more so because in the : part, Ardisio, Lorenzo nicely caught the likeness miser, a man to whom y came first, last and at all y in between. It was a with that well-judged of caricature which : an actor—even as ng as Stephen Murray—the part alive—was glad to have heard as Cleverdon's Arrows of : which was Radio 4's con to the William Blake remembrance, but mainly be it later helped me to keep wairings in the relatively nposed territory of Peter it's *Me and Mr Blake*, this depending for its intelli y on a fair degree of fami with the events of Blake's *Wail, Arrows of Vision* led that, but on the other expected a programme such a title, on such a subd from a writer of such reputation to be some more than a very plain guide—to be, in fact, both d and visionary, in it was really rather dull and *Mr Blake* was not at all. Peter Everett) and Richard Wordley cer), both of *Cookham* action fame, are much

David Wade

grand surprise

amson Mass
icester Cathedral

am Mann

three Choirs' Festival has luck in its major con is for this year's 25th ions. Richard Rodgey t gave notice some time it he could not complete rians in time.

the choral parts and ore of *Mass of Christ* g on time, an extended th hymns interspersed setting of the standard ext, but, with many mpositions to complete e year as Master of 's Music, he could not e full orchestral score ass in time for Thurs- rly performance in er Cathedral.

Sanders, the festival had been rehearsing pleted portions until before the evening con- the "Gloria" and "had to be omitted also the responsorial for solo tenor and ra, fully scored but too Mr. Sanders to master g his other duties for

ty and Cleopatra
burgh

Chaillet

Theatre Company's ductions of the love f Antony and Cleopatra the main theatre events burgh and tickets are come by, although the ular success of the fes- is far the production rmen. Shakespeare's and Cleopatra, with Tutin as Cleopatra and Coven as Antony is the nard of the two, with vden's *All for Love* as elementary partner.

Robertson, directing care, has fallen to the ical combinations to real passions, his lovers air best moments with and the most impressive of of action are the umentary when Antony s Octavius Caesar, with an impressive, cal-

It would be idle to assess *Mass of Christ* the King until it is performed in complete, can only assure those readers who spurn Williamson's simplistic music (its invention all the stronger because it has to be instantly performable) that the new Mass is an elaborate composition, grand and often surprising, for all that the choral music draws on ecclesiastical traditions, especially on plainsong.

It makes a jubilant and varied noise, approachable yet demanding concentration. The Alleluia, its rapid chatter for brass alternating with choir and with slower interludes to heighten the fundamental speed, is a case in point. The "Sanctus" is a pugnacious movement, flaunting holiness as a brilliant and exhilarating virtuosity, the "Agnus Dei" a solid, forceful music, full of harmonic surprises. There is a jubilant, brassy "Te Missa est".

The solo vocal music, such as we heard of it, gave uplifting scope to April's cantata, and high notes and Philip Langridge's fluent melismatic tenor. Lorin Smyth, billed as a contralto, displayed an impressive high mezzo register.

Sometimes it could be sensed that balance was imperfect, the chorus too slow, the orchestra battling bravely but tentatively, the conductor determined of spirit if he could not obtain at short notice real accuracy. It was a pity if these forces were deprived of the glory of the world's first integral performance.

culating precision by Derek Jacobi. The stylization of the production is subdued to Prospect's *Pericles* and only the costumes touch on the make-up and hints of incest between Octavius and his sister Octavia, hint at the audacious theatricality of which Mr Robertson is capable.

Perhaps because the men show more loyalty, and seem to have the stronger bonds, it is Timothy West's performance as Enobarbus, which is most perfectly formed. Despite a limp as a result of an injury, Mr West strides the stage with determination, calling even a bit of humour from the part, and he makes Antony's decline completely visible.

Because Mr Robertson keeps the stage clean, using the Assembly Hall as a vast Elizabethan theatre and presenting most of the action on the thrust of the stage, he makes the story quite clear, retaining the sense of the play without offering more than an occasional insight.

Shostakovich: *The Nose*. Moscow Musical Theatre Soloists, chorus and orchestra. DG Records. EMI SLS 5088 (2 records), £7.50.

Beethoven: *Leonore*. Moser Donah Cassilly Adam Ridderbusch Leipzig Radio Chorus. Dresden State Opera Chorus. Blomstedt. EMI SLS 599. (3 records), £11.95.

Cimarosa: *Il matrimonio segreto*. Auger/Varady/Hamari Davies/Rinoldi/Bacher. DG Records. EMI SLS 599. (3 records), £11.95.

Shostakovich had a chequered operatic career. The changing fortunes of *Katerina Ismailova* (otherwise *The Lady of the Muskrat District*) have often been rehearsed. Earlier still, in 1930, when Shostakovich, like other young Soviet artists, was an enthusiastic avant-gardist, he composed an opera, *The Nose*, based on a story by Gogol. It was deplored by authority, resuscitated successfully in 1974, and now appears in recorded form, thanks to the liaison of EMI and Russian Melody.

The Nose is a near-surrealist farce. Adjutant Kovalev wakes to discover that his nose has left his face. It turns up in a loaf of bread, escapes, dons official uniform, assumes a personality and voice (high nasal reverb) of its own, and undergoes numerous adventures, some outrageous, before returning unexpectedly to Kovalev's face.

If it were necessary now to prove the range of Shostakovich's invention (in later life he did tend to concentrate on dour elegy and wistful brooding, relieved by hysterical and sarcastic frenzies), *The Nose* can offer impressive evidence. The basically farcical tone of the music comes from Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, and perhaps the café concert world of Poulenc and his circle (at that time Soviet composers were in close touch with new purists in western music). A scene in church piles a serious choral vein, more like Pfitzner than Mussorgsky (there is some Mussorgsky influence elsewhere). Kovalev's awakening brings wild instrumental solos and an array of obscure vocal forms from Edward Akhmetov, whose performance is virtuosic in less extreme respects too.

In the newspaper office eight men sing an ensemble of palimpsest, syllabically re-framed small-scale comic and striking. There is tremendous intermezzo for a huge trumpet section (admirably recorded in stereo). The scene at a coach station, with travellers, policemen and the *Nose* is sustained comedy, quite in range. Then, for a grasping

Giordano: *Andrea Chenier*. Scott/Domingo/Milnes. Levine and National Philharmonic. RCA RL 02046, £6.98 until January 31, 1978, thereafter £10.47.

Verdi: *La forza del destino*. Price/Domingo/Milnes. ESO. RCA RL 01064, £10.47 until January 31, thereafter £13.96.

August used to be the drabdest month in the record industry, but RCA have rather defiantly decided to change that this year. It has been chosen as the company's major operatic release date and two of the sets, *Andrea Chenier* and *La forza del destino*, go straight into the list of the best of 1977.

Chenier is the more welcome because Giordano's opera has been neglected over the years. Decca's version on cheap label dates back to 1960. EMI recorded it in 1964 mainly for Franco Corelli, who was at his most exciting in the role, but the rest of the cast was scarcely special and it has dropped out of the catalogue.

So RCA have little opposition and even if they had the quality of this new set would have brushed it aside.

James Levine and the National Philharmonic convey the extrovert, exuberant drama of Giordano's score. It may not

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 1*, overtures. Berlin State Opera Orchestra/Klemperer. DG Records. EMI SLS 511, £2.35.

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 9*. Karsten Lindberg-Torvald. ESO. RCA RL 01064, £10.47 until January 31, thereafter £13.96.

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 4*. Grosse Fuge. Berlin PO/Furtwängler. DG Records. EMI SLS 513, £2.35.

We live in strange times. Not only are our concert programmes and record catalogues dominated by works written more than a century ago, but we can listen to these works in performances several decades old. I must say I find this double nostalgia somewhat depressing, and yet my objections were overcome by every one of these four historic releases, all of which have abundant musical interest quite apart from their documentary value.

Klemperer's 1924 recording of the Beethoven first is perhaps the most interesting as a document and the least satisfying as a musical experience, simply because the sound



Beethoven's Leonore

mother and her ambitious daughter comes a duet à la Tchaikovsky. The opera's last act is long and many singers take several roles; characterization is acute, accuracy of notes less so.

The performance by the Moscow Musical Theatre under Gennady Rozhdestvensky bristles with vitality and, with reference to text in Russian and English, can be hugely enjoyed, keenly engineered on to disc as it is. Only one doubt: why doesn't the *Nose* sing nasally, as prescribed?

Devotees of Beethoven's *Fidelio* were agog at rumours of a complete *Leonore* on record, since this first version of the greatly loved masterpiece may be appreciated in its own right, not merely as a comparative study in creative first and second thoughts. A happy collaboration between East and West Germany has made the new *Leonore* as valuable a set as one dared to hope. The conductor, Herbert Blomstedt, is evidently a knowing Beethovenian (though his off stage trumpet is disappointingly faint) who shares his appreciation of the many different details, and even musical numbers, in the proto-*Fidelio*, and draws splendid, muscular and

Orpheus in Paris

be subtle music and it is easy enough to complain that the strokes are broad and obvious, but in the right hands it has a totally compelling quality. In the same way that certain books once started refuse to let themselves be put down so this *Chenier* makes one hurry to put the next record on the turntable.

The fourth act is the pinnacle of the opera and here Plácido Domingo is in his most winning form, singing Chenier's last poem "Come un bel di" with the sweetness of an Orpheus and the next record on the turntable. The French Revolution. Scott has made her transformation from the *bel canto* to the *bel canto* perfectly, as regular visitors to the Met will know. Her Maddalena is admirably determined. The all round praise must be shared by Sherrill Milnes, thoughtful and restrained as Gerard, and excellent in the role of the Duke, but the rest of the cast was scarcely special and it has dropped out of the catalogue.

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James Levine and the National Philharmonic convey the extrovert, exuberant drama of Giordano's score. It may not

Historic performances

leaves so much to be filled in by the imagination. This was Klemperer's first recording, and it makes a fascinating comparison with the records we have of his style forty years later. There is little sign of the monumental grandeur associated with his name. Instead the young Klemperer deals with the music crisply and succinctly, achieving a little movement which is not vitiated by the period. The next woodwind lines contribute much to the effect of classical alertness and elegance, but so too does Klemperer's even rhythm and his refusal to impose himself. Perhaps in that refusal one can find some link with the conductor of later years.

The overtures which complete the disc, *Coriolan*, *Egmont* and *Leonore*, No. 3, all show the same eschewal of easy drama, the same fluent motion. Again the sound quality demands some amendment, these performances dating from 1927, and again the effort is well rewarded.

Fritz Busch's account of the "Choral" symphony, which comes from a live concert in September 1950, is the most recent of these recordings, and yet the most difficult to adjust to: one suspects that the Danish radio engineers, like their col-

league in the orchestra, were not among the leaders of the profession. Even so, Busch's marvellously lucid performance shines from the grooves. As his widow says in the recollections quoted on the sleeve, "it was a golden Danish autumn, and no grave thoughts of any kind were allowed to mar it".

The "Choral" symphony without grave thoughts, you might think, is not the "Choral" symphony, but let this record convince you. Busch's dexterous rhythms, his clean woodwind counterpoints and his brisk tempos all combine to make this probably the most up-to-date Beethoven ninth on record, yet it is by no means inexpressive. In the slow movement, for instance, Busch achieves a beautifully supple flow of music, by subtle changes of tempo in response to the movement of each phrase.

This delicate musical notion finds its opposite pole in Victor de Sabata's account of Brahms's fourth symphony, recorded in 1939. Here, in an impassioned view of the slow movement, de Sabata offers all the spongy pursuing and large-scale tempo wobbles from which Busch holds himself aloof. And the approach works, thrillingly, in a performance of high drama and

—a rare combination—exquisite textural finesse. The first movement threatens to tear itself apart in questing after a few emphasized motifs, and the final passacaglia becomes a sequence of harmonic studies, held together by mounting tension. Eccentric the performance may be, but it brooks no denials, and the recording presents it in vivid enough terms.

Furtwängler conducts the same orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, only four years later in his recording of Beethoven's ninth symphony, but to very different ends. The weight of this performance lies in the adagio introduction and in the slow movement, both marked by supreme rounded wind playing to assist in access to transcendental profundity. Of course, Furtwängler will have none of de Sabata's flash and drama. Instead he seems to meditate as he plans his way through the work, even in the long phase of opening and relaxation which he makes of the last two movements. He is also a greatly impressive account of the *Grosse Fuge*, though one may find it difficult to agree that its "monumental character" is brought out more effectively by a full string orchestra. In these, at least, tastes have changed.

Paul Griffiths

Records of the month

Farce, and proto-Fidelio

Joy in life and love

Wolf: *Lieder*. Volume 3. Fischer-Dieskau/Barenboim. DG 2740 162 (three records), £9 (special price).

Wolf: *Italienisches Liederbuch*. Mathis/Schreier/Engel. DG 2707 096 (two records), £7.90.

Brahms: *Händel Variations*. Paganini Variations (Books 1 and 2). Ohlsson. HMV HQS 1579, £2.25.

Mendelssohn: *Six Preludes and Fugues*. Op. 35. Three Etudes. Op. 104. Adm. HMV HQS 1394, £2.85.

List: *Hungarian Rhapsodies*. L-15. Calcutta. HMV SLS 5089 (two records), £6.25.

Volume 3 of Wolf's songs from Fischer-Dieskau and Daniel Barenboim is a treasure-trove. Besides spotlighting Eichendorff and Reinick settings it also includes an assortment of rarely heard, often Schumann saluting early songs (full of startling pre-echoes though lacking concentration) as well as Byron and Michelangelo inspired masterpieces of the composer's last months of sanity.

We all know there was something unique about the partnership of Fischer-Dieskau and Gerald Moore. But of all those invited to sing into Dr Moore's shoes, Daniel Barenboim seems increasingly willing to "live" each song, with Fischer-Dieskau. Gone is that reticence that threatened their collaboration in earlier years. Nothing is more exquisitely caught by Barenboim than the glassy moonlight of Byron's too little sung "Sonnet der Schlämmerlöcher", described by Frank Walker, as the sudden and most desolate of all Wolf's haunted nocturnes. But in Reinick's apostrophe to daylight in "Morgenstimmung" (another late triumph) his piano rings out as richly and gloriously as a full symphony orchestra.

Cimarosa as Gmárosa, witty and elegant, inventive, entertaining, lovely music for a moment, never recorded or would-be-profound. Barenboim has an uncommonly sharp cast, with Fischer-Dieskau as the deaf, tyrannical old father, Julia Varady and Arleen Auger as the rival sisters (bossy and gentle respectively), and Ryland Davies in superb form as the humble secret hand. Voice assemblies are the glory of this opera and they are truly, sensitively done, with sparkling support from our English Chamber Orchestra, and from DGG's studio team. If this version of the opera sounds original and long-winded, you haven't been listening attentively to the abundant artistry lavished upon it.

William Mann

short enough to resist being heard in excess, and a little blood seeps from the pieces chosen, but it is a joy to hear Beecham's interpretation again and Björling and de los Angeles singing across the rooftops of Paris. De los Angeles again here in Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* (SLS 5090 [TC SLS 5090, £7.95]) charming and affecting as Amelia. The set, of course, belongs to Tito Gobbi in the title role, who did much to bring this opera to the honour it deserves. The little turgid joy and emotion at the end of the recognition scene with Amelia sums up in a moment the completeness of the interpretation. EMI give good measure by filling up the sixth side with the *Tristano* recital by Fiesco, Boris Christoff. But a word of caution: DG's *Boccacina*, based on the classic Scala production, is due out before the end of this year, a fact which cannot have escaped EMI's notice. Among the Decca releases first recommendation goes to *Tristano*. It dates from the early '60s and Fritz Uhl is not the greatest of heroes, well or dying, but it is remarkable playing from Soli and the Vienna Philharmonic and Nilsson is at the height of her powers (D41D5, £12.50).

John Higgins

As for Fischer-Dieskau himself, it would be difficult to name any other baritone today better able to encompass all the moods and styles of this far-flung album. Soldiers and sailors, swashbucklers and apprentices find him the healthy, hearty extrovert, always with humour in plenty up his sleeve. Jumping direct from the back-slapping brio of Eichendorff's "seemama's Abschied" to the late "Liederbuch" setting of "Alles endet", and "Die Nacht" makes it difficult to believe that you are listening to the same voice. For the late songs he finds a very intensely, even pacing, the tone down to a toneless whisper if necessary, as in the chilling evocation of nothingness after death in the late Michelangelo setting, "Alles endet".

Though the *Italienisches Liederbuch* grew from later years, for Wolf it was an escape into the sun. Deeper undertones abound, of course, but basically it is "a brevity of joy in life and love", as the booklet-writer puts it in the new recording from Edith Mathis and Peter Schreier with Karl Engel at the piano. The pleasure of the issue resides primarily in the radiant mellifluous tone of both soprano and tenor. Neither, perhaps, has the range of colour of Seefried and Fischer-Dieskau, in an earlier DG set, which is too cool and clinical. These two high voices sometimes need deeper, richer supporting sonority. The recording itself is fresh and clear.

On the keyboard front there are new recordings from two members of the uprising gen-

eration: Garrick Ohlsson, American victor at Warsaw a few years ago, is effortlessly brilliant and crystalline in Brahms's only two variations with virtuosity. The Paganini Variations (both books), because the more purely pianistic, suit him best, and in fact include feats worthy of the demon fiddler himself. Some of the Handel Variations need more intensity, a richer inner glow. Whether due to instrument, studio acoustics, or to Ohlsson himself, the sound here seems too shallow for the music.

Though company and label are the same, Daniel Adni's Mendelssohn recital comes up considerably more full bodied in tone. He earns gratitude for his rescue of the *Six Preludes and Fugues*, Op. 35, which few recitalists ever risk as alternative to Bach's "48", although they are much too good with their small, tasteful injections of new romantic wit into classical borders to be left for ever on library shelves. Though more run-of-the-mill, the studies repay occasional airing too. The playing is some of the best Mr Adni has recently given us.

Ciffra, today not quite the sensational newcomer of yesterday, makes an apt return in Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies (the familiar Nos 1-15). "Apt" because rhapsodies, being rhapsodies, have no one and only narrow way. But while quick in response to his country's gypsies and their improvisatory immediacy, he is still scarcely a match for Louis Kentner (in an old Turandot cycle), who even on this ground emphasizes the mind underpinning Liszt's love of effect, besides reminding us that this composer was among the most fastidious of all nineteenth-century Paris's virtuosos.

Joan Chiswell

A world first

Loris Tjeknavorian

and the National Philharmonic Orchestra

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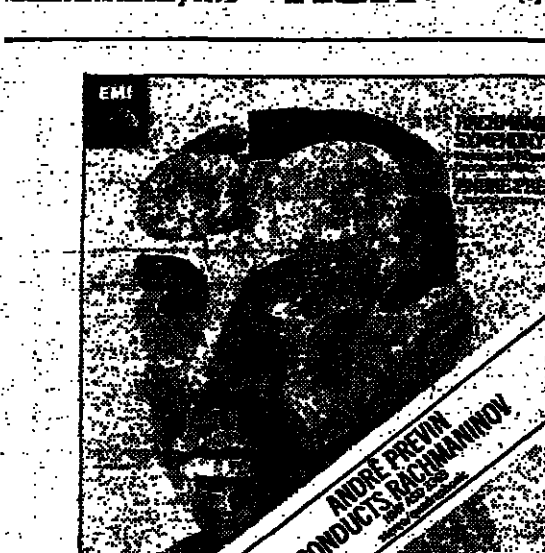
Nocturne for String Orchestra

The National Philharmonic play splendidly, and the recording is rich and firm. The Guardian



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André Previn has already made one very recommendable recording of Beethoven's Third Symphony, but here he seems to go beyond the merely recommendable... The new recording is remarkably vivid, accompanied by a high-level level with deep, clear perspective. The new recording of the Third Symphony is surely the only one to have a commissioner's performance, lovingly and imaginatively played by the orchestra under a conductor genuinely at one with the ingenious life of this elusive symphonic fantasy.

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PHILIPS

Chess

Winners and losers

So at last the great match in the Hotel La Méditerranée in Geneva is at an end. Boris Spassky of the USSR, has beaten Lajos Portisch of Hungary and is now presumably meditating upon the problems that may arise in his match in the final of the Candidates series against Korchnoi later in the year.

I am writing these lines only a couple of hours after congratulating the victor and consoling with the loser, and sharing a bottle of champagne with them and their seconds. What I said then was that I hoped that Boris would go on to win the world championship title which he had so worthily won nine years ago. But I also said that I admired the dignity with which Portisch had taken his loss and was impressed with the sportsmanship he had displayed throughout the contest. These were no empty words, nor were they inspired by a sort of virtuous verity. It has always seemed a sad thing to me that there must be a loser in a match, and in this case, when the two contestants were such fine players and nice people it was doubly sad.

Now that the match is over I find the result inevitable. But, looking back on what I have written on the contest I see that, both before and during the match, I was of quite another opinion. I underestimated Spassky's powers of endurance and overestimated Portisch's staying power. In short, I thought Portisch would win, and I was wrong in so thinking.

It may seem reprehensible for a chess journalist to be so wrong and may even be possible for such a journalist to be more fallible than the Pope. I refuse to attempt to justify myself. Humanum error est and in any case one should not try to predict the unpredictable.

In the end one has to confess that on the day Spassky won better than Portisch and if he beats Korchnoi, as I confidently expect—but I am at it again and instead of completing the forecast must devote my whole attention to the difficult, by no means impossible, task of biting off my tongue.

A consideration of the match shows that it divides up into three main phases. In the first stage the Hungarian grandmaster definitely had the upper hand. By the end of the eighth game Portisch was in the lead with the score of 4½ to 3½. In the second phase Spassky gradually brought about equality so that the score was 6½ all at the end of the twelfth game. And in the last phase Spassky was clearly on top. He won 2½ points out of the next three games so that, with one game still to go, he had a winning score of 8½ to Portisch's 6½.

To my mind, and this is not a post hoc judgment since I expressed my doubts at the time, Portisch made a mistake in postponing his games for about a week. I should explain that the match regulations state that no player may postpone a game more than three times and then this postponement can only be done on production of a valid doctor's certificate resulting to the said player's indisposition. But in the past such a procedure has merely proved to be a hypocritical formality. So Spassky proposed, and Portisch accepted that each player could postpone his game for three occasions without specifying that he was ill. I, as arbiter, was more than ready to accept the proposition since I knew very well that the postponement procedure hardly ever applied to sickness but was in fact a method of obtaining a rest.

But when Portisch adopted this plan and went off to his native Hungary, he merely gave Spassky the opportunity of arising from the slumber of that particular week. The Hungarian's rush back home on the other hand seemed to give Spassky just the chance he wanted in taking a rest himself. Significantly, Portisch failed to win a single game after his return home during the match, whereas Spassky won no less than two during that period. The moral is that rest days are part of the armoury of a player and such an important part that they must be used sparingly. The former world champion, Boris Spassky, who was such a remarkable match player, used them to great and most economical effect, and Smyslov, once

he had caught the hang of the thing, was equally skilful in his use of this ploy.

It should, however, be said, and needs to be said, in view of the fact that Spassky won the match by the large margin of 2 points with the additional flourish of winning the match with one game still unplayed, that Portisch was by no means outclassed. He is a grandmaster of considerable distinction with a large number of really worthwhile successes to his credit. In the line of great masters with which the comparatively small land of Hungary has blessed the world of chess, ranging from Szentgyörgyi Albert to Charousek to Szabo and Portisch, the last named is one of the greatest.

Hence the interesting and significant fact that the sixth game, which ended in a draw, was the best of the match. Even when he was on the losing side Portisch produced some highly ingenious and entertaining ideas in an endeavour to stem the progress of a rival who was growing in stature as the match progressed. In the 13th game, which is surely destined to be an anthology piece, we see Spassky triumphing in sparkling fashion over a by no means despicable defence. White: Spassky. Black: Portisch.

To my mind this is an unnecessary surrender of the centre and better seems K-K4.

He wants to play B-K3 without fearing K-K5. But since White is able to get at the Bishop in another way Black might have saved himself a move and a weakness by playing O-O.

He would like to move the Q-K1 without allowing BxP.

Too slow: he should have struck back at once with P-QK4.

With the idea of strengthening his BP and then playing P-Q4. The idea is, however, not a good one and again he should have played P-QK4.

In order, given the opportunity, to play B-K3 with a strong hold on Q5.

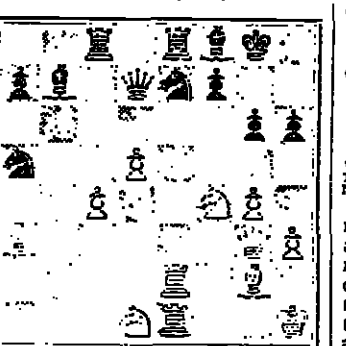
A mistake: Black has overlooked the force of the reply which results in the Black Kt being put out of action or else in danger of capture. Now, though, Black seems to have nothing better, so rapidly has his game gone downhill.

Spassky is playing for a brilliant finish but instead the prosaic Q-K1 won a piece and would probably have induced resignation.

If 34... PxR: 35 PxP dis. ch. K-R2: 36 E-K4 ch. P-B4: 37 BxR: 38 BxP ch. Q-Q2: 39 R-R ch. K-R1: 40 Q-B3 ch. followed by R-Kt1 ch.

Because of 40... R-B8: 41 R-K8 ch. K-R2: 42 E-K4 ch. and meanwhile there is the threat of 41 BxR. QXB: 42 R-KKt6.

Position after 33, B to B1.



Harry Golombek

Bridge

Exposed

There is no sign on the horizon of restriction in conventional bidding: rather the reverse, as ingenious games by the English Bridge Union for new artificial meanings to otherwise acceptable bids are too numerous for monthly publication.

Artificial One Club openings which had no particular reference to the club suit have existed since the dawn of Contract, but only in the past 25 years has a system demanded that every hand containing 16 or more points should be opened One Club. Those who believe that this forms an essential link in the chain of bidding are forced into other artifices. They never open One No Trump except on a balanced hand with 13/15 points. They confine an opening One Heart or One Spade to a five-card, or longer, suit. These restrictions redound to the disadvantage of a kind of dustbin for many distributions where diamonds are not the principal feature. Since you are not allowed to open Two Clubs on a weak suit and you must bid with 13 points, you open One Diamond with five clubs and a doubleton diamond. In the same way, you open One Diamond with three four card suits and a singleton diamond.

I can expatiate on the folly of applying such artifices to rubber bridge, but it is easier to expose their futility in the situations for which they are designed, beginning with a deal from the semi-final of the world championship in 1975. Game all; dealer South.

10 7 5
K Q 7 3
A 4 6 5
A 4

South West North East
Diamonds 10 7 5 4 3 2
Clubs K Q 7 3
Hearts A 4 6 5
Spades A 4

South doubled in order to obtain a Spade lead, although it would not have deprived West of his contract. In fact, North took the double to mean that his partner had a good diamond suit, so he led a diamond and the declarer made two overtricks. At the other table South opened One Club and East played in Three No Trumps. South cashed his four Spades and that was the end.

In the other match where the same cards were played, South was permitted at one table to play in One Club, his opening bid. The defence was imperfect and he was thankful to lose only 300. The other South made the natural opening bid of One Spade and frightened his opponents from bidding Three No Trumps. The auction took this curious course:

South West North East
1 Spade Double No Spades
2 Spade Double No Spades
3 Spade Double No Spades
4 Spade Double No Spades
5 Spade Double No Spades
6 Spade Double No Spades
7 Spade Double No Spades
8 Spade Double No Spades
9 Spade Double No Spades
10 Spade Double No Spades
11 Spade Double No Spades
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93 Spade Double No Spades
94 Spade Double No Spades
95 Spade Double No Spades
96 Spade Double No Spades
97 Spade Double No Spades
98 Spade Double No Spades
99 Spade Double No Spades
100 Spade Double No Spades

Three rounds of Spades forced West's long heart, so, after he had taken three rounds of trumps and his winners South put him down with the 11 and the thirteen Spade. This merely illustrates how an illogical restriction against an opening major suit bid on a four card suit punts the defenders as a disadvantage. If South must open on his hand because he has two four-card majors, does it make sense to bid a minor suit?

The conventions for which I have the greatest distaste are those which are designed to describe a two-suited, or three-suited, hand over an opposing No Trump opening. The purpose behind them is to enable the defenders to steal a contract instead of being taken in by a small penalty: like the take-out double when it is abused, the Landy, Astro and Ripsa conventions are totally unfitted for rubber bridge. Here is a deal from an American tournament where both North players seem determined to lose points.

No score: dealer West.

West North South East
Diamonds 10 7 5 4 3 2
Clubs K Q 7 3
Hearts A 4 6 5
Spades A 4

Edward Mayer

Gardening

Come into the garden, Ivy

which purpose they are excellent.

Ritner and Son, Winchester, list in their *Manual of Trees and Shrubs* about 40 ivies and in the trial of ivies currently being conducted at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley there are over 135 varieties—but some of these will probably prove to be synonymous.

Ivies will grow in all but the most infertile soils, they thrive in dense shade under trees where little else grows, and even grass, will grow, and they withstand atmospheric pollution very well.

It is not wise to let ivy romp up or over trees, shrubs, or other plants, but they are regularly pruned they tend to make a great heavy mass of top growth and in the case of shrubs or small trees they may cause their collapse.

I inherited at Hurlmore a large elderberry bush covered with ivy. Not realising how heavy this great head of ivy branches was I did not attempt to cut it back and one night in a heavy storm the whole thing blew down.

People are sometimes confused about ivies. The young climbing shoots which attach themselves to walls and trees by means of aerial roots are sterile—they do not produce any flowers. When the plant reaches the top of the wall or other support it ceases to produce climbing shoots but makes woody growth which bears flowers and fruits.

These woody shoots may be propagated and are usually called variety "Arborescens". They make bushes up to several feet high.

There are seven species of ivy but the varieties of *H. convallaria*, *H. colchica* and *H. helix* are the most commonly grown. Our hardy native *H. helix* is the most widely planted and there are about three dozen varieties. I am particu-

larly fond of "Gold Heart", sometimes erroneously described as "Jubilee". It has green leaves with a rich splash of gold in the centre. The best golden leaved ivy is "Buttercup" also known as "Golden Cloud" and "Russell's Gold". I like too the green and gold "Aureo-variegata", sometimes sold as "Chrysophylla" and "Glacier" which has small green and silvery grey variegated leaves edged with white. Perhaps more curious than beautiful is "Cristata" which has roundish pale green, wavy leaves, crimped and crinkled at the edges. It usually arouses interest when visitors see it for the first time.

Rather less hardy are the varieties of *H. convallaria*. They may be cut back by readily hardy ivies, but except in very cold areas they are well worth growing. My favourite of the Canary Island ivies is "Variegata" more often sold as "Gloire de Marengo". It has large leaves, green in the middle then splashed with grey becoming creamy white at the edges. It is most effective climbing up a trellis or over an old tree stump.

The Persian ivy *Hedera colchica* (*H. amurensis*) has dark green leaves and there are several varieties notably "Demata Variegata" with green leaves shading to cream grey and creamy yellow. It has received the award of garden merit—as far as I can tell from my records the only ivy to have been so honoured by the RHS.

I have just received the catalogue of Highfield Nurseries, Whitminster, Gloucester, GL2 7PL. This firm has always prided itself on giving more service than is expected from the normal nursery. For instance, those who wish to plant a shrub border may send particulars of the border, shape and size, type of soil, aspect and other relevant details and the firm will prepare a sug-

gested planting scheme with a quotation for the complete cost of the shrubs. You send £5 as a deposit which may be deducted eventually from the shrub order.

Or if you have a rectangular plot of the fairly standard size—say around 25 by 30 feet or even less, the firm can supply four alternative complete garden designs by the garden designer Kenneth Midgley which you may obtain for £2.50 together with a quotation for the suggested plantings.

They are also offering "family fruit" trees—apple and pear trees with three varieties grafted on them. I have often extolled the virtues of these family trees—the crop over a long season as possible, they are compatible with each other, that is they cross pollinate each other and their flowering times overlap. So except in very unfavourable seasons (such as 1977) I have almost certain to get a crop from one, two or three of the varieties.

Family trees are justly popular and there have never been enough of them to meet the demand. But Highfield Nurseries have some family apple and pear trees in stock now and if you wish to plant some I advise you to order quickly as stocks are limited.

The following combinations are available. Apples: "A" Merton Knave, Egremont Russet, and Cox's Orange Pippin. "C" Early Worcester, Moss's Seedling, and Lemon's Superb. "E" James Grieve, Moss's Seedling and Golden Delicious. All these are dessert varieties except James Grieve which is really a dual purpose dessert/culinary apple. Pear: "Y" William's Bon Chrétien, Conference and Doyenné du Coeur.

These family trees cost £7 each. Highfield Nursery charges £1.25 carriage and packing on all orders up to £25 in

value—after that carriage free. Understandably with the cost of fruits and vegetables rising all the time there has been great demand for fruit trees and for two years at least the going to be a shortage of quality trees and many varieties will be hard to find. If you intend to plant any fruit tree I should order them now.

I am sorry that in order to simplify the behaviour of hydrangeas in acid or alkali soils last week I only made a problem more confusing. At one point I said that most of the blue varieties will turn to a reddish purple I should of course have said that on acid soils some pink or red varieties will turn to blue because not all pink varieties will turn a good shade of blue on acid soil or when treated with a "blueing powder". If varieties do best in neutral alkaline soil.

Jobs for September
Finish pruning climbing ramblers and the tie in growths. Check all the climbers and ties holding trees to their stakes. Renew them necessary before the autumn gales arrive.
Finish pruning hedges.

Sow new lawns or sow on worn patches. Or lift a turf from a part of the garden where they will not much missed and return it worn patches. Sow seed where you have lifted the turf from.

September is about the best month to destroy lawn weeds with selective weed killers. Take cuttings as early in the month as possible if not already of hydrangeas, geraniums, pelargoniums, fuchsias, flowering shrubs such as wisteria, diervilla and philadelphus.

Roy H.

Food

In a pickle

Vinegar is the preservative in these recipes for pickles and a chutney. Brining, either with dry salt or in a salt solution, draws the moisture out of vegetables to be used in pickles and slow simmering evaporates off water from fruit to concentrate the ingredients in a chutney. The presence of excess water in either case not only weakens the flavour but dilutes the vinegar and therefore reduces the keeping qualities in your recipe. It is important to use enamel-lined, aluminium or stainless steel pans for making these because brass or copper imparts an unpleasant metallic taste.

You can use jam jars for chutney or pickles; provided a suitable airtight cover is used, glass jars are not sufficient to prevent evaporation of the vinegar. Attractive wide necked jars with tight-fitting corks can be used so long as you boil the corks beforehand and put a layer of greaseproof paper between the contents of the jar and the cork. In glass-stoppered jars, sweet pickles look very pretty and will keep if they are sealed with paraffin wax for storage. Jam jars are fine if covered with plastic suspension covers (any vinegar will erode metal tops) or you can cover them with a circle of greaseproof paper and then a square of double thickness butter muslin dipped in melted paraffin wax and then tied down tightly. Paraffin wax melts to a clear liquid on heating and dries to a hard white wax on cooling, rather like candle wax. Synthetic skin such as Poronex highly tested over the years also gives a satisfactory seal.

All pickles and chutneys improve in flavour with keeping and a few jars made now might even make a handy Christmas gift.

Plum Chutney
From reports that I have heard there is a good crop of plums this year. This recipe makes a chutney with a delicious fruit flavour. Use the dark red or purple plums to make it.
Makes 4lb.

2lb plums
1lb onions
2lb cooking apples
3oz salt
1 pint (or 1 reconstituted) cider or wine vinegar
For the spiced vinegar
1 pint cider or wine vinegar
1lb brown sugar

Katie Stev

Muslin bag containing 1 dessertspoon each of cloves, spice, black peppercorns, a piece of bruised root ginger.

Wipe, halve and stone plums. Peel the onions and chop them finely. Peel and core apples and chop into tiny dice. Put all these into a pan with the salt and the vinegar. Cook and simmer until soft.

Meanwhile prepare the spiced vinegar. Bring the vinegar, salt and muslin bag of spices to boil and simmer for five minutes. Draw off the heat and leave to infuse for 10 minutes. Strain the spiced vinegar into the softened fruit and continue simmering, stirring occasionally until the mixture is soft. Pour into hot dry jars. Seal and store.

Sweet cucumber pickle
In America this sweet pickle often called "bread and butter pickle" because it is nice to eat just as it is on a buttered slice of white bread, but also good with cold or raised pie and with biscuits and cheese too.
Makes 4lb.

3lb (about 3-4 large) cucumbers
3 large onions
3oz cooking salt
For the syrup
3 pint wine vinegar
12oz soft brown sugar
4 level teaspoon turmeric
3 level teaspoon ground cumin seed
1 level dessertspoon mustard seed

Wash the cucumbers, but do not peel. Slice thinly and place in a large mixing bowl along with the peeled and sliced onions. Sprinkle with the salt and toss well. Let stand down with plates and for 3 hours. Rinse the vegetables thoroughly under cold running water in a colander, drain well and place in a large saucpan. Add the vinegar, turmeric, cumin seed and mustard seed. Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the sugar and spices to the pan, stir or heat to dissolve the sugar and bring up to the boil and then pour the hot liquid into the contents of the pan into a mixing basin and set aside to cool. Spoon into jars, and seal.

Katie Stev

The Times Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS

- Miltonic merriment personified (with precaution against rib-spiriting) (8, 7, 4, 3, 5).
- Don Juan's favourite treat (7).
- Marsh was bothered by a politician (5).
- Used by a Latin spy in the nursery? (7).
- Conceivably possible power? (5).
- Holds forth at length about the right of non- (11).
- Some trouble about the doctor, love, to take to heart? (7).
- Goddess of so many fabulous nights in the classical arts? (7).
- Pierre of, for instance, a friend back from Paris? (11).
- Start to play in turn with a sea-anemone? (7).
- Cattle food that fuel prospectors hope for a slice off? (3, 4).
- Organ's outlet for circulation? (5).
- Indian hunter's endless country walk in drag (7).
- Does work with newspapers get you down? (7).
- The Case of the Mishit Tennis-ball settled thus? (3, 2, 5).
- For instance, cancel-out, heaven-sent to Elaine? (3, 6, 2, 1, 7).
- Measure confines differences of race to this college? (9).
- Intervals when setter can make an anagram (7).
- Macadam one to take Byronic type of holiday without notice? (7).
- Dismisses Peter at the stopping-place? (7).
- Fresh breeze round place named in 48, we hear, as an old U-boat base? (9).
- Address: Ujiji (8, 11, 1, 7).
- One Scotsman about to assume one burden (10).
- Half-day's issue? What a thrill! (7).
- A lame cleric in the way he writes appears a crank? (7).
- Tear open with a French rake (5).
- Bloody-minded footballer in front position or back? (7).
- Poor Tyler died, led astray? Nonsense! (7).
- Odd bachelor joined the dance? (5).
- Proved by experience of Farrar's boy about the turn of the lunch hour? (7).
- Muslim rulers of state taking precedence over one Times diarist? (7).
- In French those singers are like Circe (11).
- One of three boatmen as the edge in erchidure? (7).
- Measure requested, but goes mad about one beyond return? (7).
- Which hair turning silver—drinking gin? (5).
- An inexpensive, while out-of-the-way, musical instrument? (7).
- Irish 6-musical's hero was no accidental bunny-chaser (3, 7, 2, 3, 7, 5).

DOWN

- Sordid gain to suit rising Latin poet? (9).

- Assume wrongly "up" includes "up-country" (5).
- Pledge by picture-fixer Felix East (11).
- Disentanglement in exotic art (11).
- One, two, or three — time for a dance? (10, 5).
- Carnivore devours sloths in this connexion (7).
- Curse the main scourge in empire-building (9).
- A flower from the flowing bowl? (4, 7).
- Be a bear concerning deception? (8).
- Info gives two examples of this inadequate expedient (4, 7).
- Gerling pants in a twist when the river's thus flooding? (2, 5).
- Art-master goes into Hindu literature in Indonesia? (7).
- Somewhat euphorbiaceous planet of Sirius? (4, 7).
- Adequacy of short day is supported by works round the north and south (16).
- Meant anyhow to include the main point of grazing another's cattle? (9).
- Fish-catcher as holder of money—French currency? (5, 5).
- Smiler "the — of all —s"—see? (7).
- Irish skin bot, of course? (7).
- "Ler's enlist"—perhaps it shows one quality of a contemptible army (10).
- One such fish-catcher named as king in Ireland's royal hall (5).
- Does a tick-off get this officer promotion? (6, 10).
- Proceeds delicately with request for turnover in haberdashery items? (7).
- Hanging hair girl needs net for resetting? (7).
- A horse in the nursery, or otherwise, is making trouble? (5).
- Potion rendered ineffective by Macbeth's murder? (8, 7).
- Heredity theory puts end to confounded lies in short measure? (9).
- Springs purely from the plant (5, 6).
- Does its player develop long legs too? (11).
- It's speed of a sort that will keep our trophy secure (4, 7).
- Parisian point of view (6, 5).
- Foreign articles this Saturday feature has subject to consideration (5, 6).
- He left us unwillingly (9).
- Go beyond the conclusion of a medium performance, say? (9).
- The merry summer of 1 ac and others (1, 7).
- Put it up when there's some sort of evidence about start to summer? (7).
- Chief actor you see in this hive of industry? (7).
- Attribute to Eve originally in case of trouble (7).
- Whom Hamlet contrasted unfavourably with Hyperion? (5).

How to get 20% off the price of a fabulous 2 week winter cruise, sailing to Morocco, Madeira, and the Canaries, next January 5th. Easy. Just pick up your phone and dial any of these numbers.

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مكتبة الأمل

Ever closer to the wind

by Robert Humphreys

Just as motor racing has been divided into two main areas, we have first the formal, one-mile race, and secondly, the informal, longer distance race. The informal race, where the potential performance of each boat is assessed by a complex rating rule, nowadays the international offshore rule, and where the results are worked out using a time allowance formula to give each boat the same theoretical opportunity of success. Then we have the type of race which can be described if not as the adventure of a lifetime, certainly as an experience to remember—the various single-handed and two-handed races which demand more of the crew in both the preparation and execution of their project than a season of normal weekend racing.

The cruising man will sail where and when he chooses to; he will be free to alter course should there be promise of a more comfortable, perhaps safer, ride. In racing, however, there are no such options. If a mark of the course lies 100 miles to windward and it happens to be blowing a good six knots the only course of action, other than the highly unsatisfactory one of giving up and going home, is to crash it out with the intention not just to survive but to beat the next man to that mark.

Naturally, this dedicated, demanding approach can be counted on to bring out the worst quirks in a boat, but it does raise to the surface those factors of design that might otherwise have remained lost in a sea of intangibility. Always there are lessons to be learnt and just as certainly there are those who will learn from them, carrying any potential improvements through into the next generation of boats.

Modern ocean racing can be divided loosely into two main areas. We have first the formal, one-mile race, and secondly, the informal, longer distance race. The informal race, where the potential performance of each boat is assessed by a complex rating rule, nowadays the international offshore rule, and where the results are worked out using a time allowance formula to give each boat the same theoretical opportunity of success. Then we have the type of race which can be described if not as the adventure of a lifetime, certainly as an experience to remember—the various single-handed and two-handed races which demand more of the crew in both the preparation and execution of their project than a season of normal weekend racing.

Yacht development through the arena of offshore racing has been a gentle curve, with just a few occasional impulses indicating complete innovation. Partly encouraged by the rating rule, and partly by marketing demands, boats have gradually become more commodious, becoming progressively wider and higher in freeboard. Apart from the obvious spatial benefits this has certainly caused them to become much drier boats to sail compared with the low freeboard, narrow-gutted types of old which used to submerge through every second wavecrest.

Tremendous advances in construction techniques and materials, most significantly in the use of new wide-spread use of glass reinforced plastic, has helped much to keep sea water where it be-

longs, rather than let it seep in through every single seam as was often the case. Perhaps the most peculiar aspect of sailing is the way in which boats can actually sail towards the wind. The airflow over the sails produces a force which is opposed by the keel to produce a forward component, and to achieve best efficiency to windward we need more than just speed through the water, we need the ability to point closely to the eye of the wind.

Take two boats which are of the same speed; the one which is able to point a few degrees higher than the other will be the first boat to the windward mark as it is travelling over a shorter distance. Therefore one of the fundamental keys to overall performance is the inter-relationship of rig and keel, and the nature of each.

Without a doubt improvements in this area can be attributed to the fierce competition of racing. It produced the lightweight aluminium mast to reduce windage and weight aloft; it encouraged the widespread use of synthetic cloths for sails; and gradually these have been developed further until we now find ourselves with sails of thoroughly efficient aerodynamic section. The next logical step would be an analogous with the change from biplane to monoplane, from soft wing to solid wing. Keels, too, have changed dramatically. The lateral area of the underwater profile has been reduced drastically over the years but at the same time the sectional shape of the keel has become a tailored hydrodynamic form rather than merely a

shape designed to take a given weight of ballast with little concession towards the effective reduction of leeway.

So we have reduced the friction of the large wetted surface area and replaced it with a fin keel located precisely for best directional balance, the right weight distribution, an efficient righting lever and useful lift to reduce leeway. By this we have improved the boat's safety as well as their speed by giving them the capacity to beat away from a lee shore that would have been the death of many an old vessel.

From the other side of the racing world, one that is less concerned with handicapping formulas than with free development, we have greater variety of shape, size and concept. The various short-handed races that form part of the racing programme have been an excellent outlet for the individualist and the experimentalist. Naturally, there have been some unfortunate failures, but on the whole the rate of progress has been outstanding, in the boats themselves and in the equipment they use.

Through single-handed racing, for instance, the cruising yachtsman now has efficient self-steering gear to give him an extra pair of hands, roller-reefing headsails to enable him to reduce sail in a hurry, and self-cleaning winches to make more of his strength.

We have seen many developments away from the traditional keelboat. Catamarans and trimarans are now numerous, both of the racing and cruising variety. Although the first multi-

hulls—the traditional boats of Polynesia—are older than any keelboats, the major development work has been carried out in the past 10 or 15 years.

We have discovered that the demands of cruising and racing, require different characteristics of the boats—racing multihulls, designed with speed as the fundamental criterion, do not like carrying weight and are therefore not eminently suitable as cruising boats. In the past year trimarans, particularly, have had a poor time of it as several well-known boats have crashed. Until new ideas which are being tested prove themselves, a multihull is more stable upside down than it was the right way up.

At the moment it seems that the record of the offshore catamaran is healthier, although this may be because most racing multihulls are trimarans and it is generally only the racing boats that are pressed to and beyond their limits. However, multihull designers may be able to overcome what have hitherto been seen as inherent pitfalls of relying merely on buoyancy for stability.

Yacht racing is certainly in a transitory state and an increasingly professional element makes the analogy with motor racing closer. As success takes in commercial considerations there is a great danger that progress in the pursuit of speed will outstrip the fundamental characteristics that have hitherto made offshore racing yachts such safe vessels. After a few relatively windless seasons there is a great temptation to start skimming on construction savings in the interest of saving weight.

Sponsorship takes to the waves

by John Young

Remarkably, in these straitened times, there are people who can afford to own expensive yachts and to cruise in them for several weeks a year. More remarkably still, there are many others able to buy new boats every couple of years and to indulge in the enormously expensive sport of ocean racing.

In recent years, however, a new dimension has been added with the growing vogue for long-distance international races, of which the Whitbread Round the World race and The Observer Singlehanded Transatlantic contest are perhaps the two outstanding examples. They combine the adventure and danger of distant-water voyaging with the demands on skill and stamina imposed by competition.

Needless to say, the combination multiplies the cost, and the man who would be entrants find that the only answer is to find some form of sponsor, in most cases a commercial firm which will shoulder most of the expense in return for the publicity. Among this year's sponsors are a department store chain, a brewery, two cigarette companies, and manufacturers of kitchenware, typewriters, record players and furniture.

The yachting authorities tend to take a fairly detached view of such developments. The Royal Yachting Association, for example, which has no direct interest in events of this kind, welcomes sponsorship of competitions and regattas but is less than keen on the idea of boats bearing their sponsors' names.

Under International Yacht Racing Union rules that would, in any case, constitute advertising and would thus be banned. But, as an RYA official pointed out, "these chaps are not racing under IYRU rules, they are under the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea, and those say nothing about advertising."

That is not to say that an event like the Whitbread is simply a commercial free-for-all. The organisers invariably make a highly responsible and professional attitude to administration and safety, if only because, if a race was seen to be a shambles, the bad publicity would do them immense harm.

Similarly sponsors of entrants are likely to be attracted only to competent and experienced yachtsmen who have proved their mettle and are likely to perform creditably. Misjudgments can occur, things can go badly wrong at sea, and tragedies have occurred in long-distance races, but the chances of a totally unsuitable candidate either finding a backer or eluding the vigilance of the race committee are negligible.

What is in it for the sponsors? Are their motives purely commercial, or is there sometimes a touch of altruism encouraged, perhaps by a sports-loving chairman who wishes that he had had the chance or the courage to sail round the world when he was a young man?

Debenhams, the department store group, makes no secret of the fact that it is looking for maximum publicity. "We have gone into the

sponsorship of sport in a big way, because we aim to become the major retailers of sports equipment in Britain," an official said. "Already we have 27 sports shops in our stores, and we have 18 others planned."

This year's group has sponsored an international athletics meeting at Crystal Palace, tours of Britain by a Japanese badminton team and a party of young Australian cricketers, a motor racing event for Escort cars, the Junior International women's squash championships, and has also given financial help to the British Judo Association, the Modern Pentathlon Association, and a newly formed hockey league in the West Country.

Sponsorship of an entry rather than an event is a new departure for the company. It was prompted partly by John Ridgway's readiness to change the name of his boat to that of the sponsor, and also no doubt by the fact that arrangements had already been made for an ATV camera crew to sail on board to make a 90-minute documentary film of the race.

Perhaps the most interesting and unusual sponsored boat in this year's race is Traité de Rome, which has been entered by the EEC to mark the twentieth anniversary of the treaty's signing. The idea came from Patrick Coleman, a correspondent of *Le Soir* in Brussels, and it says something for the bureaucrats that the go-ahead was given to charter the former Admiral's Cup contender, Rion, from a German owner, Herr Willi Illbruck. It is Pinta which now carries the U

almost certain ized sail numl More than 200 were received berths; from d men and wome selected, repr dine member who will take man the Comm on its global v Marketeers p tirade against of taxpayers a note that the borie by privar institutions, and organizations.

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The lucky it oil-rig worker, ing executive w of the rat rai woman. But on least was not av ing his own pri ship.

Mr Max Le photographer fi managed to en port of his le Once again it pointed out, i forestall outra: tions to the may letters to The not a penny of, was involved, a tributions were voluntary effort: lections at gar

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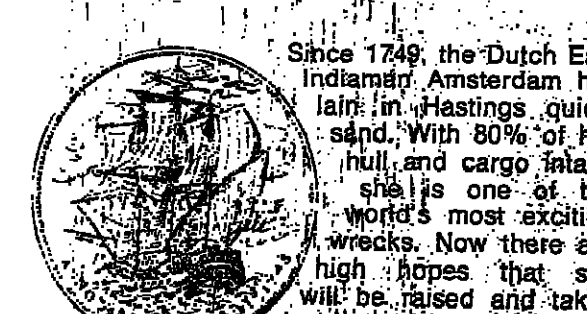
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A perverse kind of satisfaction

continued from previous page

The Round the World race has a special attraction to those who enjoy big boat and big distance racing. Not only is it the longest race—27,000 miles—leaving in a small open boat as to cross the Atlantic in a yacht. Indeed more people are drowned in small craft round the world than in yachts on long distance ventures, largely through ignorance and lack of elementary sea-manlike precautions.

To survive on this war-r, it is essential to know one's own capabilities and those of one's crew, to be prepared for the worst and to take the advice of those whose job it is to give advice on safety at sea. How many of those lost off our shores in small open boats took heed of the weather fore- or knew how the tide and currents would affect them? Or told the Coastguard where they were going?

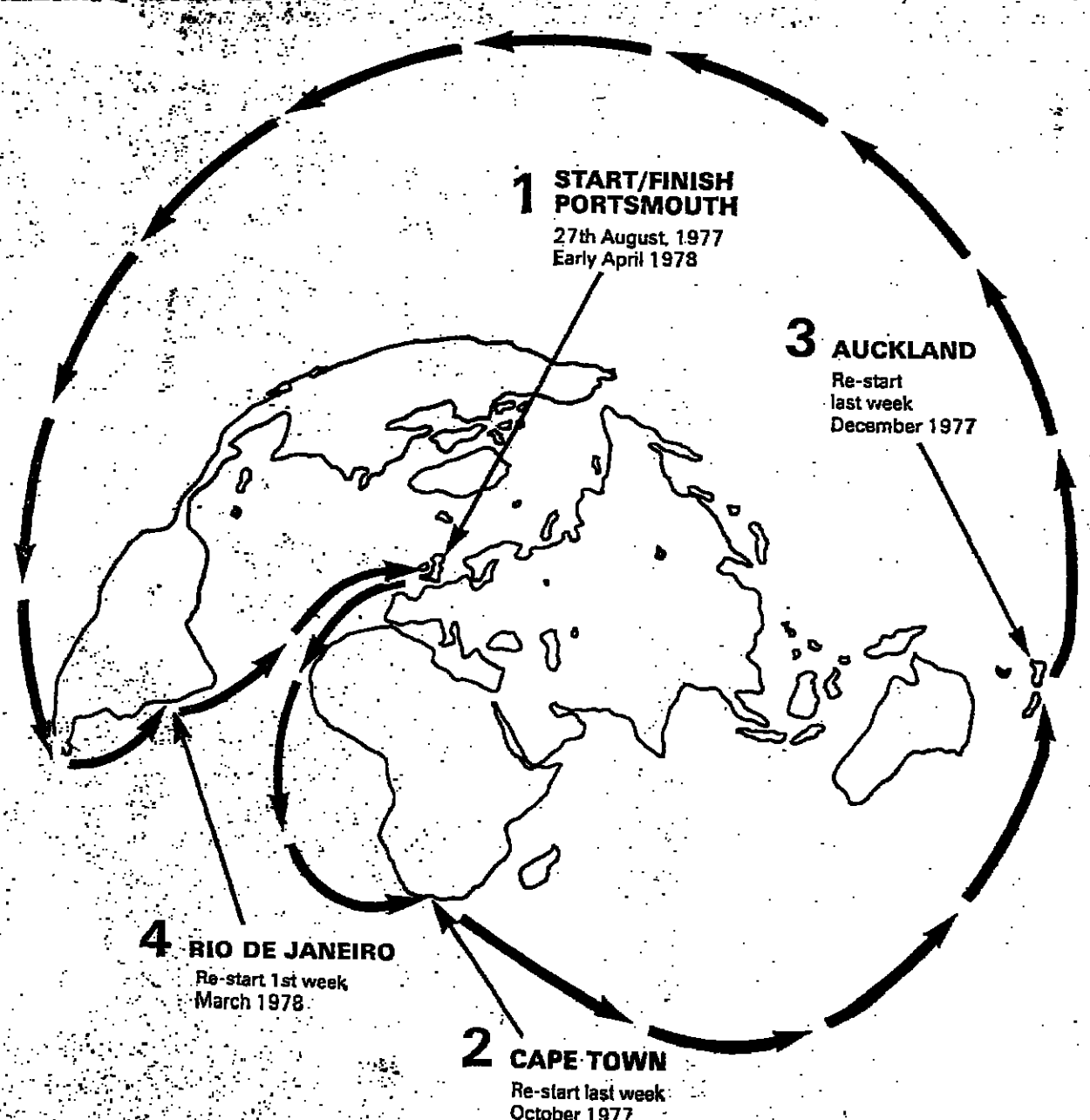
Organizers of sailing races, whether on inland waters or offshore, are very conscious of their responsibilities. They test of human and material endurance. The Royal Yachting Association had no objection to the first round the world race, but the magnitude of the venture when we sailed on the first round the world race four years ago, the requirements for safety equipment from life-jackets to emergency and life-raids to emergency flares and radio, the extent of the voyage, the obvious dependence upon the craft and the type of sport whether it be motor, racing, or cruising, made good so the longer the race and trans-ocean racing has in special problems, epitomized by the

The Southern Ocean is a cold, lonely and empty stretch of water which demands all a crew's resources of skill, endurance and tenacity both to sail the boat in a seamanlike way and to finish ahead.

The race offers fast sailing, adventure and the challenge of the Southern Ocean. As long as you forget the weeks of discomfort and hardship you are undoubtedly going to endure, it is an irresistible combination.



Clare Francis came third in the 1974 Round Britain race, and thirteenth out of 125 competitors in The Observer Singlehanded Transatlantic race last year, setting a new women's world record.



Yacht	Owner skipper	Nationality
Debenhams	John Ridgway	British
Flyer	C. van Rietschoten	Dutch
Heath's Condor	Leslie Williams and Robin Knox-Johnson	British
Tiela	Dirk Nauta	Dutch
Gauloisés II	Eric Loizeau	French
ADC Accutrac	Clare Francis	British
Disque D'Or	Swiss Ocean Racing Club/ Pierre Fehlmann	Swiss
Adventure	MOD/Joint Services	British
GB II	Robert James	British
B & B Italia	B & B Italia/C. di Majo	Italian
Japy-Hermes	J. Viant	French
GB III (last leg only)	Chay Blyth	British
Neptune	Bernard Deguy	French
33 Export	Alain Gabbay	French
Kings Legend	Nick Ratcliffe	British
Traité de Rome	Philippe Hanin	EEC
Pen Duick VI (legs 3 and 4 only)	Eric Tabarly	French

Cutting the risk

by Rear Admiral O. St. J. Steiner

Those who know and love the sea respect it, whether it be on the broad oceans or in the coastal waters close to home. It can be just as dangerous to venture into the Solent in a small open boat as to cross the Atlantic in a yacht. Indeed more people are drowned in small craft round the world than in yachts on long distance ventures, largely through ignorance and lack of elementary sea-manlike precautions.

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Whitbread Round the World race. Once on the broad oceans there can be no "shortened course" signal because of bad weather and no near refuge to which to return quickly from the race.

Yachts and crews must endure whatever the conditions and to do this, they must be well found with crew, strong both mentally and physically. In eight months they will sail further than the average yacht manager in 15 years in conditions as difficult as the most demanding.

To survive on this war-r, it is essential to know one's own capabilities and those of one's crew, to be prepared for the worst and to take the advice of those whose job it is to give advice on safety at sea. How many of those lost off our shores in small open boats took heed of the weather fore- or knew how the tide and currents would affect them? Or told the Coastguard where they were going?

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realize and accept the risk. When a transocean race is undertaken, risk to a minimum is a necessary part of the venture or the competitors.

The Royal Yachting Association is a weak link in the chain of knowledge and experience from whom to organize the round the world race. It is comprised of 15 years in conditions as difficult as the most demanding.

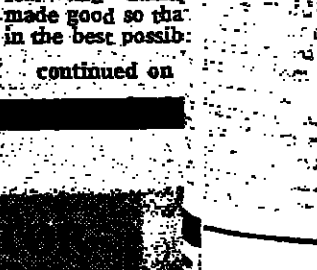
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THREE FINNISH SWANS FOR SECOND WHITBREAD

Nantor of Finland wishes good luck to all the contestants in the 1977 Whitbread Round the World Race. Of course, we are most proud of the three Swan 65s that will be on the starting line at noon today when the gun is fired by that famous Swan 65 owner, Ramon Carlin.

To have one yacht in the event is a distinction for designer and builder alike. For no fewer than three yachts of the same class from the same yard to be competing is a tremendous achievement.



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PSYCHIATRISTS UNITE!

All the ways in which human beings torment each other these days involve the misuse of the science of healing and the abuse of doctors. Doctors have enjoyed a special status since they are the healers of human life. Their professional codes of ethics have acted as a check on this and, because of this, the mystery which surrounds their work they have generally allowed a wide measure of immunity for upholding their standards and dealing with them among their own ranks who short of these standards. By large, and within the limits of the imperfect knowledge which society has put in it, in modern times, however, have been two particularly glaring examples of betrayal: doctors have prostituted their calling to the demands of a corrupt state. Nazi doctors used an beings as experimental subjects, and some Soviet psychiatrists remain even now willing to use their professional skills to punish people on the state.

Yesterday in Honolulu the psychiatric Association for its sixth conference in knowledge that it will have to decide whether to condemn psychiatry in the Union or whether to continue to support it. Resolutions will be moved by British delegates condemning the use of psychiatry for political purposes in the Soviet Union. There will also be an African resolution mentioning the permanent body to monitor the system in the future. Very few efforts are likely to be made by the Soviet Union to

defeat or circumvent these resolutions, and there is a risk that the losing side in the battle could walk out.

The last opportunity the Association had to condemn Soviet practices was in Mexico in 1971. The opportunity was lost largely because of the skillful tactics of the Soviet delegates and because the information available at that time was not quite extensive enough to persuade wavering, who gave priority to holding the Association together and keeping open contacts with Soviet psychiatrists. There was a dramatic appeal from Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the Soviet dissident, who had risked his life and health to inform the west about what was going on, but there was not much else. Delegates felt they were being asked to dabble in politics. The result, as victims have since testified, was that the Soviet Union's victory by greatly worsening the treatment of political dissidents in mental hospitals.

Since then information has accumulated steadily thanks to the courage of victims and the doggedness of scholars and doctors in the west who have collated and evaluated their information. Anyone who has remained doubts has only to read Russia's Political Hospitals by Sidney Bloch and Peter Reddaway, which was published recently. There he will find the evidence laid out in meticulous detail in its historical context, together with answers to familiar questions, such as whether the Russians really believe that anyone who fights the system must for that reason alone be a suitable case for

treatment. As the authors say, "the strong official ethos of collectivism generates in Soviet psychiatrists... an intolerance of deviance from conventionally accepted norms and values". Moreover, Soviet physicians wear to be guided by "communist morality", which, presumably, subordinates conscience to the party. There is also plenty of room in modern psychiatry for genuine professional disagreements over diagnosis. But even allowing for all this there can no longer be any doubt that some Soviet psychiatrists are willing to torture some people on instructions from the authorities, and that this is part of a conscious and approved policy for punishing and deterring dissidents.

The psychiatrists meeting in Honolulu, therefore, have a clear duty both to the victims and to the honour of their profession. They must condemn these practices in clear and certain terms. If this splits the association it is a small price to pay. East-west contacts in bodies of this sort are generally valuable and should contribute to the exchange of information and the cultivation of personal contacts, but they become disgracefully absurd if instead of enhancing professional standards they betray them. If the WPA fails in its duty it will be responsible not only for increasing the suffering of present inmates of Soviet mental institutions and disheartening the many honourable Soviet psychiatrists who oppose what is going on, but also for severely damaging its own standing. A body which cannot stand up for the ethical standards expected of it has no further claim to the loyalty of its members or the respect of the public.

decision by the Australian Government to allow development of the extensive Ranger uranium ore for export has profound implications for the rest of the world. The following is a four-year moratorium on uranium prospecting in Australia, during a time a public inquiry common under Mr Justice Fox, under the impact on the uranium mining industry. Mr Fox examined the impact of the uranium mining industry on the environment, particularly in the Territory of Northern Territory, and in the investigation of the uranium mining industry. Mr Fox examined the impact of the uranium mining industry on the environment, particularly in the Territory of Northern Territory, and in the investigation of the uranium mining industry. Mr Fox examined the impact of the uranium mining industry on the environment, particularly in the Territory of Northern Territory, and in the investigation of the uranium mining industry.

recovered resources. Because Australia is rich in coal, natural gas and coal meet two thirds of its own oil needs, there has been little urgency for a commercial nuclear power programme. Nevertheless the value of those ores on the world market has in the past four years increased from seven dollars a pound to twenty-five dollars a pound, reflecting the willingness of atomic power users, particularly in Japan and Europe, to secure a mineral for which they have no indigenous supplies. With a flagging economy, it is understandable for the Australian Government to assess the value of uranium reserves in terms of their balance of payments.

The judgment is directly comparable with that by the British Government over revenue from North Sea oil. Indeed, in recent negotiations with the European Commission, the Australian Government has made clear its readiness to cooperate in uranium supplies in return for better access to Community markets in other commodities. However, the consequences of uranium ore development are arguably too important to be governed by the making of a quick dollar because the price of nuclear fuels has increased over three times as a direct response to the OPEC squeeze on the oil price. In practice there is no immediate shortage of uranium ore. True, forecasts of

Police use of recording tapes

From Mr Frank Norman
Sir, The TV documentary "The Case of Yolande McShane" certainly gave me the creepy feeling that we are no longer safe from the prying eye of the police even in the privacy of our own homes. It does, however, occur to me that there is one way in which the police could use their video recording machines that might put an end to what in common parlance is known as "verbal".

If CID officers regularly carried video machines and recorded their interviews with suspects and witnesses, especially in the absence of a solicitor, not only would there be no more accusations of police twisting the suspect's statements, there would also be an extra difficulty in the corrupt policeman. Unless he was a TV director himself, videotaped interviews with those from whom he had already accepted bribes would be unconvincing.

Should I might see no more of those endearing underworld characters who when charged unflinchingly say: "It's a fair cop, guv", or "I ain't done nuffink!"

Yours sincerely,
FRANK NORMAN,
222 Great Portland Street, W1.
August 25.

From Mr J. Hartley
Sir, I am 72. I hope that if circumstances later make it desirable, a member of my family will provide the same help as was apparently given to Mr Mott and will accept the risk of being bugged while doing so, as in the case of Mrs Mott.

I write so that it isolated police snags solely of the culminating act in such a process of discussion and assistance are used by a prosecution, the defence can use this letter for background.

Should the time come for me to need this help, I hope that I shall be as much in command of my faculties as Mrs Mott seemed to be at the time of her daughter's much publicized private visit.

Yours faithfully,
J. HARTLEY,
Lyndhurst,
Holloway Lane,
Sharncliffe,
Reading,
August 25.

Strike disruption of air traffic

From Mr Peter Martin
Sir, You published yesterday (August 25) an advertisement by the Civil and Public Services Association which invited the public to judge the responsibility for the "scenes of chaos" produced by the action of air traffic control assistants.

A judgment can only be made on the basis of all the available facts and these were certainly not set out in the advertisement, so I have tried to discover a few more for myself.

The CPSSA describes the ATCs as "low paid workers" but I question this proposition. The average earnings of the ATCs including allowances such as overtime and shift disturbance allowances, for their "day and night, day in day out" work are £5,575 per annum for an ATCA class 1, the highest earners getting £7,300 per annum and the lowest £4,300. For an ATCA class II the average earnings are £3,795 per annum with the highest earners getting £7,600 and the lowest £2,400. Since new pay scales were agreed in April, 1976, pay increases under phase I of £312 per annum and phase 2 of 5 per cent or £208 have been made. The phase 2 pay increases made in April 1977, is this sufficiently low pay to warrant the sort of go-slow and strike action which the ATCs are now taking because they feel that the government has directly caused the dispute?

My understanding is that in June, 1975, the CAA agreed to a job evaluation exercise to analyse the ATCs' claim that their work was undervalued. Before the analysis was completed in April, 1976, phase I of the government's pay policy was introduced and, in due course, an agreement for a pay increase when government pay policy permitted was made. How can the CPSSA argue that they are seeking the pay increase which was agreed in June 1975 when there was no agreement to pay until government pay policy permitted? How can they argue that the settlement pre-dates incomes policy?

Should the clergy form a union?

From the Rev Frank Dossetor
Sir, In your article (August 23) on the poor financial rewards of the clergy you say that the notion of a union of clergy is "a bit of a joke". Is it not because for many the unions stand for inconvenience to the public and violence against the police? There is no reason why a union of clergymen should not be both gentle and eager to help the "management" make the best use of their resources and so act like the yeast mentioned in the Gospels, to leaven the whole TUC.

At the present time the bishops are both too few and too busy to study in detail the huge property resources of the Church, while the clergy are not entitled to do so. There is therefore a place for a body which can make suggestions that might lead to a better use of the Church's resources, and the clergy led by those who must use them. In a recent television programme, for instance, we saw a young incumbent who was finding it difficult to make ends meet, and also discussed the possibility of a strike worth mentioning. But there would seem to be a case for ameliorating the lot of the clergy without incommencing the diocesan staff. I can see no reason why a union of parsons should not be genuinely friendly and helpful to the bishops.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK DOSSETOR,
St Andrew's Vicarage,
Guilford Road, SW16.
August 22.

From the Rev J. D. Brown
Sir, It would be regrettable if the financial difficulties of the Anglican clergy were to lead to a situation hinted at in John Young's article (August 23). Secular methods of confrontation are contrary to the vocation of the Christian ministry. It may well be frustration due to the lack of adequate machinery for consultation with the Church authorities in discussing and resolving the problems of the clergy that has led to this dubious development. A welcome sign has been the willingness of the Church Commissioners to meet representatives of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, and to agree to a meeting with the Council of the Association of the Clergy on September 23.

Police use of recording tapes

From Mr J. Hartley
Sir, I am 72. I hope that if circumstances later make it desirable, a member of my family will provide the same help as was apparently given to Mr Mott and will accept the risk of being bugged while doing so, as in the case of Mrs Mott.

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Yours faithfully,
J. HARTLEY,
Lyndhurst,
Holloway Lane,
Sharncliffe,
Reading,
August 25.

European Assembly

From Lord Duncan-Sandys, CH
Sir, In his letter (August 18) Lord Bess of Brighthelm expressed the opinion that a European Assembly, directly elected by all means, but separated from the National Parliaments, would be fatal to the cause of a United Europe.

That may be true. But it is no reason for abandoning the idea of direct elections. It is rather an argument for establishing some effective links between the elected members of the European Parliament and their respective national parliaments.

In his statement to Parliament, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, argues that by taking the decision to export uranium Australia can slow the movement towards the use of plutonium as nuclear fuel, and thus lessen the attendant risks of nuclear weapons proliferation. No say the least, this is a highly contentious proposition. Mr Fraser's argument is that exporting uranium will make Australia more effective in supporting safeguards against proliferation of nuclear materials for weapons purposes. Opponents of his Government's policy may well suggest that a more impressive lead would have been to continue a moratorium until the nuclear energy issue being so intensely debated round the world is resolved.

pull on The
h didn't come

ness in Paraguay
Mr Alan Grounds
he arbitrary arrest, torture, and disappearance of workers and intellectuals in Paraguay is a great pity. More to the present point however is the fact that, having been refused passports and fearing re-arrest, they have taken refuge in the Peruvian embassy in Asuncion. Their appeal for safe conduct out of Paraguay has evoked from the authorities the comment that the three men, now well into their sixties "have nothing to fear".

Finally, the "new development" of initiating judicial proceedings against prisoners of conscience is of course most welcome; in the past very few have even been charged. Unfortunately there seems little prospect so far of any actual trials. The indictments reported are all against people arrested since 1974; none of the longer-term prisoners is involved.

Thus far has General Stroessner "acted to escape censure" by the human rights conscious outside world. To compare him, as in your report, with General Franco may be apt, but one can't help feeling that, even for the late Cauchin, the outside world was a little nearer home.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GROUNDS,
Coordinator, Paraguay,
Amnesty International,
British Section,
55 Theobalds Road, WC1.
August 16.

The way the wind blows

From Major T. K. Brown
Sir, Like your reader Bishop Kenneth Healey (August 23) I have for some time had grave suspicions about the reliability of the wind direction and force data kept a record based on observations taken here, and find that the south-westerly has prevailed on 57 days or almost exactly 25 per cent of recorded winds; it is interesting to note that it lies with the score of 57 for its opposite the north-easterly so far this year.

Pronunciation

From Mr Hollan Horner
Sir, Although according to Mrs Hazel Wright (August 19) weather forecasters do not work for the BBC and therefore, supposedly, are not open to persuasion about pronunciation, county suffixes as Wiltshire, surely some guidance could be given to BBC-employed announcers and commentators who persist in this habit?

Quality of rural life

From the Chief Executive,
National Association of Youth Clubs
Sir, Michael Hornslett's series on country life highlights an area of great concern for the National Association of Youth Clubs and other agencies involved in the welfare of young people.

Length of sermons

From the British Ambassador to El Salvador
Sir, I have a lively memory of a curate, single-minded for nine months in a parish which before and since boasted a vicar and at least two curates. Modestly he said he was no preacher. He therefore paid more attention than most to his sermon, and the result was that he was perceived to the point and effective.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

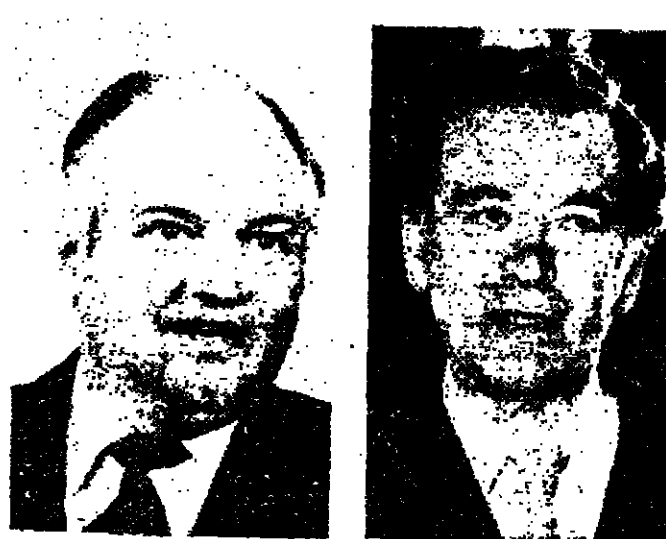
Personal
investment and
finance,
page 18

Agreement marks end of an era for famous City name

Loan redemption formula prevents winding-up of Slater, Walker Securities

Donald Pullen

Slater, Walker Securities will now be forced into liquidation after loan stockholders agreed the redemption formula for the winding-up of the company. The agreement, which was reached after a long and bitter struggle, marks the end of an era for the famous City name. Slater, Walker Securities, which was founded in 1929, was one of the oldest and most respected financial institutions in the City. It was the only firm to have been a member of the City of London Stock Exchange since its foundation. The firm's collapse was the result of a series of misadventures, including a failed attempt to acquire the City of London Stock Exchange in 1973. The firm's liquidation is expected to take several years to complete.



Sir James Goldsmith (left) and Mr Jim Slater: Scheme is the best available.

Mr Slater, who was the founder of Slater, Walker Securities, is now the chairman of the liquidation committee. He is expected to play a key role in the winding-up of the firm. The liquidation committee is expected to reach a decision on the redemption formula by the end of the month. The firm's liquidation is expected to take several years to complete. The firm's collapse was the result of a series of misadventures, including a failed attempt to acquire the City of London Stock Exchange in 1973. The firm's liquidation is expected to take several years to complete.

Resignation of Mr Alan Knapp from Sandelson

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Alan Knapp, senior partner of stockbrokers Sandelson & Co, has resigned. Mr Knapp, who bought out the firm's founder, Mr Victor Sandelson, in 1974, has concentrated on Sandelson's Far Eastern interests. Problems there, particularly with Gulf Arabian, a company controlled partly by Mr Knapp and partly by the brokers' Hong Kong office, led to discussions recently between Mr Knapp and the Stock Exchange. The Stock Exchange is satisfied that Sandelson can absorb any possible investment losses in the Far East without their affecting its status as the London market's director of the firm confirmed yesterday that, after Mr Knapp's departure, there were no contingent liabilities arising from Gulf Arabian. Mr Knapp's 32 per cent holding in the firm has been disposed of among other shareholders and he has sold his 10 per cent stake in the Hongkong broking business for a nominal sum.

US oil groups gain offshore search permit

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Aug 26

Environmentalists appear now to have lost their year long battle to stop the drilling for oil off the north-east coast of the United States. The Court of Appeals has finally given the oil companies the green light to start operations on leases they bought in the Atlantic 12 months ago from the Government at a cost in excess of \$1,000m (about £66.6m).

Chambers warn Mr Healey of pay and price code threat to companies

By Malcolm Brown

Companies essential to Britain's economic recovery might be bankrupted by the imposition of a pay and price code, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was warned yesterday. This warning was contained in a letter from the Chancellor to Mr Boardman, president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, who asked Mr Healey to clarify the Government's attitude to blacklists and sanctions against companies alleged to have broken pay policy limits. The ABCC, said Mr Boardman, was concerned at the apparent selection of small companies which individually had little industrial muscle as targets for the use of discretionary powers which the Government was exercising in placing contracts. "These small firms are operating in a competitive market, and they will realize that if they do make excessive wage settlements they will price themselves out of business."

French buy St Paul's jobs agency for £512,000

By Patricia Tisdall

Another big employment agency is about to move into foreign ownership. Terms have been agreed, subject to Bank of England permission, for the sale of St Paul's, part of Conduit Holdings, at one time the country's second-largest private employment agency. Ecco SA, a French supplier of temporary workers, last bought the agency for £512,000. Conduit Holdings has been owned by the Lex Service Group since 1971, when it was acquired for £62.5m.

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Inflationary trends in France 'past the peak'

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Aug 26

As generally forecast, the July price index, published today, is high—0.9 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent in June. It provides no comfort for the government or sign of a real deceleration of the rate of inflation.

American ship legislation could put \$240m on fuel bill

From Our US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Aug 26

Legislation to ensure that American oil imports are carried in American ships will raise the nation's fuel costs by \$240m (£138m), more than double the estimate recently published by the Department of Commerce.

Swedes discuss steel link

By Peter Hill

Preliminary discussions are taking place which could lead to a merger next year of Sweden's three largest steel-making groups.

brief

NOC 'now going concern'

Sh National Oil Corporation is now a "going concern", according to a statement by its chairman, Sir Kenneth Robinson, yesterday. The Corporation, which was set up in 1975, has been struggling since its inception. It has been accused of mismanagement and has lost a significant amount of money. The statement by Sir Kenneth Robinson is seen as a sign of optimism for the Corporation's future.

Bank intervenes to curb heavy demand for pound

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

Sterling was again heavily in demand yesterday morning, forcing the Bank of England to intervene in the market to curb the heavy demand for the pound.

Luton starts on Cavalier

Vauxhall Motors claimed yesterday that its Cavalier model, now under way at the company's Luton plant, would save at least £13.5m a year on the country's balance of payments.

Strikers at Batchelor's vote to stay out

By Patricia Tisdall

Workers at Batchelor's Foods' peas and bean drying plant at Worksop, Nottinghamshire, voted at a meeting yesterday to stay out on strike.

Swiss moves to cut budget deficit

Berne, Aug 26—Switzerland has proposed a series of measures to reduce the expected deficit in the 1978 federal budget by 1,000m Swiss francs (about £232.5m) to SF1,200m.

Support success, Electronics Council urges

Arnold Weinstock, managing director of CEC, Work on the council's policy document was originally undertaken by Lord Penney before it was put to the members.

cuts discount rate

has lowered discount 11.50 per cent from 13 per cent, according to an announcement in Rome, the second time in two days that Italy has reduced its discount rate.

regional aid

232 applications were made by the Department of Regional Development for regional selective aid in April and May, according to a statement by the Minister of Regional Development.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
APC 6p to 6 1/2p	Asso Rairies 8p to 8 1/2p
Beecham Group 2p to 2 1/2p	Blyvoors 8p to 8 1/2p
Glaxo 1p to 1 1/2p	CCB Investments 2p to 2 1/2p
Glaxo 1p to 1 1/2p	CEC 10p to 10 1/2p
Glaxo 1p to 1 1/2p	CEC 10p to 10 1/2p
Glaxo 1p to 1 1/2p	CEC 10p to 10 1/2p

THE POUND

Bank	Rate
Australia \$	1.53
Austria Sch	30.25
Belgium Fr	67.25
Canada C	1.11
Denmark Kr	16.50
Finland Mk	7.25
France F	6.55
Germany Dm	4.22
Greece Dr	61.00
Hong Kong S	15.75
Italy L	136.00
Japan Y	400.00
Netherlands Gld	4.44
Norway Kr	9.51
Portugal Esc	200.00
S Africa R	1.29
Spain Pes	165.00
Sweden Kr	7.95
Switzerland Fr	4.24
US \$	1.78
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00

On other pages

Bank base rates table 19. Financial News 19. Unit trust prices 21.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

The nanny is alive and well—and expensive

I used to think nannies came attached to voluminous Victorian prams. Or that they had all been shipped off to the Middle East, there to enjoy the comforts of en suite swimming pools and hot and cold asses milk in all bedrooms. But not so. The modern-day nanny is alive and well—and not necessarily confined to living in SW1.

Inflation has not wreaked such havoc in the nursery as one may have supposed. The socialite mum may wonder, from time to time, where her next gin and tonic is coming from, but nanny has been the most tenacious survivor of the Upstairs Downstairs era. An increasing number of professional women wish to return to full-time work after having their babies. There are still people around with large families, and the money to employ a nanny or home help. Happy victims of multiple births, like Mrs Sue Cockle in our picture, who has no less than 30 tiny fingers and toes to care for, are prime candidates for living-in help.

For non-working mothers like Sue a newly qualified nanny like Jeannette can provide the answer to the logistical problem of coping with Westley, Jocelyn and Chantelle all at once. Particularly at this time of year there tends to be a surplus of college leavers with National Nursing Examination Board Certificates but little experience. But providing a full-time working mother would want to be a costly exercise.

Quite how costly depends partly where you live. Baxter's,

one of the better-known provincial agencies that supplies the Midlands as well as London, quotes a rate of £20 to £25 a week for an experienced nanny. Two London agencies, Knightsbridge Nannies and Belgrave Bureau, put the figure considerably higher, at between £30 and £35.

It is important to remember that this is after tax and social security contributions. The full cost to the employer of paying a nanny £30 a week (leaving aside the provision of food, accommodation and the customary television) is nearer £45.

Many people prefer to advertise for help on their own account rather than go through an agency. Their efforts are generally rewarded with a veritable flood of applicants, many of whom are clearly unsuitable for one reason or another. But several colleagues have found the sort of person they were looking for in this way.

The main advantage of going to a reputable agency is that it should save you time by weeding out unsuitable applicants and it should check thoroughly all references before a potential employee is sent along to see you.

Agencies have varying rates. Some charge a percentage of annual salary. Baxter's charges £35 Knightsbridge Nannies

charges £65 while Belgrave Bureau's fee is £50.

Once you have found your nanny you, as the employer, are responsible for deducting tax and social security contributions and, of course, paying the employer's contribution. Most nannies are in the PAYE system, although a few are self-employed for tax purposes.

Your tax office will require details such as the name of your employee, nature of employment, National Insurance number, the date she starts work and how much salary she is paid. It will issue you with a simplified set of tax tables and deductions card, showing the amount of "free pay" each week or month. The tables will enable you to estimate, to the nearest 25p, the amount of tax to be deducted. This and the social security charges are payable quarterly to the tax office.

The amount of free pay is equivalent to the personal allowance, which after the recent increase is £16.35 a week. Everything above that is subject to tax at the basic rate of 34p in the pound. The Department of Health and Social Security issues tables showing the amount of contributions.

At present 5.75 per cent of total gross salary is deducted from the employee, while the employer has to pay at a swingeing rate of 10.75 per cent. Social security payments

are only payable by and for employees earning £15 per week or more, but unlike the tax deductions the charges are based on the total gross salary.

The upshot of all these costs is that giving a nanny £30 a week clear involves the employer in a cash outlay of nearly £45 per week, a sum that accounts for a pretty slice of most people's after-tax pay packet. Working on a figure of £40 per week gross, the net payable is about £28. Social Security payable by the employee would come to £2.30, bringing the net pay to just under £30—£29.66 to be precise. Then you have the employer's contribution, adding some £4.30 to the final bill.

There is no legislation governing the terms and conditions of a nanny's job. As far as the law is concerned a girl could work seven days a week 52 weeks a year unless the terms are clearly stated by the employer at the outset. But a nanny can appeal to the industrial tribunal against unfair dismissal within the terms of the Employment Protection Act, and several have recently won cases against employers who got rid of them for what was considered to be an unjustifiable or frivolous reason.

Margaret Drummond



Two's company, three's a handful: Mrs Sue Cockle, left, with her triplets, Westley, Jocelyn and Chantelle, and nanny, Jeannette Harding. Apart from what is paid "clear" to a nanny each week, tax and social security debt have to be taken into account.

Talking shop

Back garden growers fed up with the spud

One of the greatest disappointments that a home gardener can face is to sow seeds when vegetable prices are high and then watch prices fall remorselessly as their crops mature. That is what has happened this year to thousands who have dug up back gardens and front gardens and restored derelict allotments and wastelands.

Potatoes have been one of the most popular crops after the shortages and high prices of the past two seasons. They have proved such a disastrous hedge against inflation this year that they may balk the revival of the allotment habit which has grown unchecked in the past three years.

Seed potatoes bought last winter were scarce and expensive. Like the potatoes being sold for eating many were of poor quality.

Those garden crops are now being harvested just as green-grocers have huge stocks of first-class tubers at the lowest prices for three years.

Farm prices are now below the guarantee of £40 a tonne which the agricultural lobby called derisory when it was fixed early in the year. That means that commercial growers will be compensated by the state for low prices.

Domestic growers will acquire nothing except backache and crops which, after allowing for waste, will have a value of 2p or 3p a pound against those bought from green-grocers. Many home gardeners will make a cash loss on their potatoes, although they will probably turn the time and effort of producing the things rather than the money itself.

Enthusiastic gardeners would have done better to plant dwarf beans or shallots which have done well, demand less effort than potatoes and have not yet dropped below 25p a pound. Those who dug up lawns and flowerbeds because they thought they could make money on potatoes will probably want to give up gardening in disgust.

The rush to buy seed potatoes in the winter showed how easily people who might be astute judges in other games of chance were seduced by the thought of circumventing high vegetable prices. But since the value of domestic potatoes is governed entirely by returns for the commercial crop the amateur depends on freak marginal advantage to make a killing.

In a year of shortage like 1975 the late frost that enfeebled plants on thousands of commercial acres will cut yields in gardens as well. In a year like 1976 the persistent dry heat that makes the farmers' crops wither will make the amateur's pride and joy die, too.

Conversely, in a year like 1977 the mild temperatures and an lavish rainfall that make the home gardener's potatoes a credit to his efforts have precisely the same effect on the commercial crop.

It happens with many other vegetables, including lettuces and outdoor tomatoes. But it is particularly galling with potatoes, for which prices have risen faster and fallen harder in the past three seasons than for any other vegetable.

Anyone who paused to examine the market before buying seed potatoes for the 1977 season would have realized that every precondition for a glut except the right weather was in place. Prices of fresh potatoes fell so fast early this summer that frozen food companies were forced to accept losses by cutting prices of chips they had imported at 1976 prices.

Processors had beaten the shortage with record imports of instant mash granules and frozen chips. Prices of fresh potatoes fell so fast early this summer that frozen food companies were forced to accept losses by cutting prices of chips they had imported at 1976 prices.

Since some farmers have made high profits from crops those whose crops failed in 1975 and 1976 were dissuaded from turning their land over to other crops in 1977. The latest farm census of England and Wales from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shows that the total potato acreage is slightly higher than a year ago and well above the total for 1975.

In short, the market began the 1977 season with a high level of imports, low domestic consumption and a continuing strong commitment to potatoes by commercial growers, despite their leaders' complaints about the level of government support.

If the prices and quality of 1976 had been repeated this year consumption would have dropped even more sharply.

The Potato Marketing Board said it all in a leaflet issued to growers at the start of the season: "There is no doubt that many of the samples from our own farms last season were ugly, unappealing and a disgrace to British growers. That is why potato consumption dropped last year. The housewife turned to foods that were easier to prepare and didn't leave her with piles of expensive waste."

"This year it is vital that we learn by our mistakes. Every potato grower must make an all-out effort to regain those lost markets."

If not, a possible surplus will be aggravated. Prices will fall to a level which will put the grower's investment in his crop at very great risk."

The market needs a year in which to shake itself down after the upheavals of 1975 and 1976. It will then be better able to meet the political changes of 1978 when the country will become fully integrated with the Common Agricultural Policy.

Potatoes are one of the last foods to be grown and controlled in Britain under the rules which operated before the country joined the EEC. That will end abruptly on New Year's Eve and nobody yet knows precisely how the market will be governed then.

Under the Treaty of Rome Britain may not continue with its traditional system, but the EEC has not yet created a detailed framework of its own for potatoes, as it has with foods like cereals and milk.

Hugh Clayton

MID-AUGUST POTATO PRICES

	1976	1977
To farmer (tonne)		
SW England	£140	£30
Northern England	£148	£30
Scotland	£148	£30
To wholesaler (25kg)		
London	£4.00	£1.20
Birmingham	£3.95	£1.00
Cardiff	£4.05	£1.30
To shopper (lb. no prepacked)		
England and Wales	8p	3p
Scotland	10p	4p

All prices are minima quoted by the Potato Marketing Board.

Investor's week

An easing up of the market for the holiday

In all fairness it was asking a lot to expect the FT index to reach 500 in the Bank Holiday week. The bulls, who do not lack support, are convinced that it is just a matter of time, but as operators closed previous positions and showed marked reluctance to open fresh, the index had very little chance of repeating its performance of the earlier account.

As it was, the index closed the first leg of this short account 1.1 down at 484.5. The rise on Thursday afternoon was principally a reaction to two stocks, Associated Portland Cement and Becham. After a dull start to the week the latter drew fresh strength from its dividend prospect and closed

at 602p for a net gain of 12p on the week. The "Blue Circle" group was a good case of unfounded pessimism and earlier doubts were swept away by almost maintained profits and the shares eventually closed at 234p, ahead by 12p over the five days.

But the airport strike pulled a dull mantle over the proceedings and the threat of a strike at Leyland's Longbridge plant was a heavy dampener on confidence before the workers' decision to call off the strike. This helped leading shares, chiefly engineers, to recover by the close.

There was little respite for Lucas, however, whose deteriorating industrial rela-

tions clipped the price back almost every day of the week. They ended 22p off at 266p.

Stores, with British Home Stores, Marks & Spencer and GUS prominent, enjoyed a strong rise on hopes of an expected consumer spending boom this autumn and electricals were among the firmer pitches elsewhere.

Yet, as so often happens when the market takes time off, only special situations made much impact. Rascal's splashes in the investment business prompted rises in the stocks where it did take a stake, Advest and Brooks Group, and inevitably turned attention to the next possible targets, Ega Holdings, which actually unveiled bid negotia-

tions, and Farnell Electronics were considered among the best bets.

Unperturbed by such scanty dealing—marks reached a peak of only 5,652 on Monday—many of those brokers still at their desks still set their sights on 500. And the portents are reasonably good.

This market is very much gilt-edged, the pundits were saying during the week, and sterling's buoyancy has helped sustain government stocks during the launch of two "taps" aggregating £1,400m. If this trend continues and volume returns next month, this account will be dismissed for what it is—a holiday.

Ray Maughan

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Movement	Comments
234p	114p	APCM	+ 12p to 234p	Results feared.
330p	185p	Assoc. Dairies	+ 7p to 322p	Results. Expected turn.
204p	11p	Brit. Home Stores	+ 11p to 204p	Expected turn.
85p	18p	Gus "A"	+ 11p to 276p	Expected turn.
276p	138p	Decca "A"	+ 20p to 385p	Strong sector.
385p	160p	Laird	+ 25p to 85p	Takeover parent.
602p	271p	Becham	+ 12p to 602p	Dividend lions.
85p	35p	Samuel Osborn	+ 8p to 55p	Major share change.
82p	26p	Peterboro Motors	+ 18p to 62p	Bid from Harrison.
960p	550p	BP	+ 22p to 895p	Wall St. w. Persistent threat.
308p	140p	Lucas	- 12p to 296p	

Working abroad

Problems of schooling and what to do with your home

Many overseas job opportunities available two or three years ago demanded that the applicant should work with a "bachelor" status. If married, the intending expatriate was expected to work abroad and leave his wife and children behind.

On construction sites in emerging countries such conditions still persist. But more and more overseas employers encourage the expatriate to go to work abroad with his family. The question inevitably arises, "What shall we do about the children's education and our home?"

It is not always possible or indeed advisable for the expatriate to take children of school age with him, for a number of reasons:

(a) The foreign country may have an education system totally dissimilar from that of the United Kingdom;

(b) There may be no English speaking schools available;

(c) Local education in the foreign country may be expensive; and

(d) The children may be at a crucial point in their British education—just about to begin secondary school or take O or A level examinations.

Many expatriate employees of United Kingdom employers will find that the employer will pay for the children to attend British boarding schools. Even so, it has to be considered whether separation of the children from the parents is acceptable to either the children or the parents.

One question is whether the cost of supporting children in fee-paying schools will be prohibitive when the expatriate settles in the United Kingdom and the employer's grant ceases. Another is what will happen if the child, normally educated in a state school, becomes ill and needs constant medical and nursing attention.

Deep philosophical and indeed practical problems can arise for those expatriates whose children would normally attend a day school in the United Kingdom if they were placed in a fee-paying boarding school.

The philosophical and practical problems need very careful consideration. Many family

men have managed to resolve these problems by taking up overseas employment and leaving their families within the United Kingdom. Others have found long separation from their families totally unacceptable.

In no other area of expatriation will family philosophy play so strong a role. Considering that Britain has for many decades provided the majority of the world's working expatriate population, the British Government has done little—indeed one might think next to nothing—to emulate the pattern of schools subsidized by the American and French Governments in most parts of the world.

There is another more ambitious but workable proposition. The Parents' National Educational Union of Murray House, Vandon Street, London, SW1, after careful examination of the

needs of expatriate children, parents and indeed employers, offers a useful range of services.

Established for nearly a century, PNEU is well known for its home education service which enables children to be educated at home by their parents or in small groups composed of several families.

As ambitious as the idea may seem, expatriate families should not dismiss the idea out of hand. In many countries the child's mother may have far greater freedom from housework than she has in the United Kingdom.

Sometimes work permits and sociological conditions may prevent her working abroad on her own account. She will have a lot more spare time and by teaching the children herself with the help of PNEU, the mother will be contributing constructively to the overall adventure of working abroad and, in

a very real sense, to the financial, material and psychological well being of the family.

★ ★ ★

Practically every working expatriate family will own a United Kingdom home. The decision has to be taken to sell, leave the house empty or lease it for a period.

To decide simply to sell the property and purchase another upon return to the United Kingdom may seem a good idea. Many expatriate families have found it to be the only answer. A great many more have proved otherwise.

The ever-increasing demand for houses tends to mean that over a period of years prices soar and much of the monetary reward of working abroad could be wasted if a house sold for £15,000 today commands a purchase price of £25,000 or

more in five or six years.

One of the alternatives to selling the house is to have it empty, arranged by agency, and inspected by nearby relatives or friends. The kind of attention of such interested people may prove satisfactory for a limited period but the interest in somebody else's property has a tendency to wane.

An unattended house needs periodic attention and unless the foreign based owner is positive that relatives or friends can and will cope during his absence then it invariably pays to employ professional advice from a reputable local estate agent if the house is left empty.

Just as many problems can arise from letting the property without the professional advice and assistance of a reputable estate agent.

The Rent Act of 1974 brought the letting of furnished accommodation within the security of the Act, which, formerly applied only to unfurnished lettings and which were contained in the Rent Act 1968. These provisions severely restrict the grounds upon which a landlord can obtain possession from a tenant of any property with a rateable value not exceeding £1,500 in Greater London and £750 elsewhere.

There is only one ground upon which an intending expatriate will be able to regain his own home at the end of the letting period, that the premises are required as his own or for his family's residence. To establish this right it is essential that notice is given to the tenant, before the letting agreement is completed, that the landlord might require possession of the premises at the end of the agreement.

The intricacies of the Rent Act are so potential a minefield that the services of a solicitor may be required. Because of the problems of leaving a home empty, it is worth considering in this article the fact that anyone would lease a house without taking professional advice from both his solicitor and a trusted estate agent.

The agent will advise on all aspects of the letting. He will discuss the terms of the lease and, one hopes, find an acceptable tenant and arrange a

suitable rent. The onus is on the tenant to cover the mortgage, rates, insurance, and perhaps, disturbance allowance.

If the rent is too high, the tenant will have difficulty obtaining a suitable mortgage at a higher rate of interest. In general, an agent will collect the rent, deduct income tax at the basic rate (and, be according to the Inland Revenue's rules), and pay the net into the expatriate's account.

If it is decided to let the house, it is essential to have a proper inventory of the contents and furniture needed. The cost of a detailed list of contents clearly depends on the value of the contents, but an average bedroom house contains an amount of furniture should cost between £10 and £35.

Such a charge may seem high but it is after all a once-off cost, and the schedule of furniture and fittings, prepared by the agent, will include a clause in the contract in which the tenant is bound to return the furniture in the same condition as when it was left by the owner, such as scuffing—but in days very important—the amount of oil in the heating tank.

Existing borrowers building societies who let their properties in absence abroad will find approval in principle to a mortgage proper, normally be given to an estimated period of abroad of up to three years.

Experienced expatriates of the three choices in with the United Kingdom is wholly satisfactory although problems can either from letting the house empty or from having it available for a returning unit should not be dismissed lightly.

Harry Br

The author of this series The writer of Working published by Funder



"The fundamental need is for there to be a home available for the returning family..."

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and specialist funds (progress this year and the last three years). Unit holder index: 1955.5; rise from January 1, 1977: +22.7%.

Average change offered to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +15%; over 3 years: +74.1%.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

M & G Recovery	65.3	166.1	Schroder Capital F	25.9	97.9
Oceanic Index	46.3	86.3	New Court Small Cos	25.6	73.9
Perpetual Growth M	44.8	81.7	Brutema Professional	25.5	68.7
M & G Capital	43.7	99.9	Nat & Comm Capital F	25.4	91.9
Load Wall Spot Sits	42.7	99.9	Unicorn Growth	25.3	90.6
Henderson Capital	40.5	68.2	Brutema Status Cags	25.1	63.0
Tyndall Scottish Cap	37.8	49.1	Bridge Capital	24.6	63.0
Antony Gilbe Growth	37.6	49.1	Brutema Growth	24.3	94.4
Hamro Recovery	37.4	109.2	Key Capital	22.3	53.9
Hamro Smaller Sec	35.1	12.3	Confederation Growth	22.2	112.7
Capel Capital	34.4	81.7	Stratton F	21.8	8.8
Manulife Growth	32.9	21.0	GT Capital	21.0	78.0
Hamro Smaller Cos	32.6	124.9	Hambro Accum	20.8	91.5
Leo Capital	31.9	99.3	Oceanic Recovery	20.3	30.8
Reliance Oppor	31.1	101.4	Arbutnot Compound	19.3	99.3
Vanguard Growth	31.1	102.7	M & G Compoma	19.1	65.6
Sebag Capital	29.5	93.5	Brutema Small & Ind	19.1	53.3
Unicorn Recovery	28.4	85.9	Brutema Shield	18.0	53.3
Hamro Growth	27.4	124.9	Midland Drayton	17.8	23.3
Piccadilly Capital	26.5	14.0	S & P Capital	16.9	77.6
Crecent Growth	26.3	119.3	S & P Scott Growth	15.3	65.5
Oceanic Performance	25.9	82.1	Unicorn Prof M	14.4	118.5

Pearl Growth	14.3	100.0	S & P Ebor Prop Sh	15.9	77.1
Gartmore Com Share	13.7	79.3	Practical	15.7	84.7
New Court Equity	12.9	30.4	Brutema Invest Trst	15.7	78.8
Target Growth	12.8	63.2	Unicorn Financial	15.2	84.0
Trident UK Grth Acc	12.1	27.6	S & P Int	14.3	57.5
Arbutnot Growth	11.4	66.7	Allied Mds Mins Com	14.7	48.4
Unicorn Growth	10.9	47.9	Oceanic Financial	13.8	28.7
Brutema Growth	10.7	85.8	M & G Investment	13.3	64.8
S & P Capital	9.5	80.1	Bishopgate Int F	13.0	83.8
Midland Drayton	9.1	112.4	Hill Samuel Fin	12.9	98.4
S & P Select Growth F	8.4	104.3	Hambro O'seas Earm	12.4	69.5
Royal Trust Cap	7.8	52.1	S & P Ebor Fin	12.4	72.5
National West Cap	7.5	85.8	Brutema Assets	12.2	69.5
M & G Magnum	7.2	16.7	Henderson Fin	12.2	69.5
Midland Drayton Cap	6.4	71.8	Charterhouse IF	12.1	49.3
Coyne Growth	6.4	17.0	M & G Commodity	9.9	58.1
Target Eagle	6.3	70.4	National West Fin	9.2	56.6
Gartmore Insurance	6.2	55.8	L & C International	7.9	50.5
S & P Universal	5.7	42.8	Target Financial	6.4	49.9
Emson Dudley	5.6	53.4	Target Financial	6.4	49.9

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Iceland strike reversal helps recovery

A sudden revolt by the Icelandic strike force against the shop all-out strike helped the market close cheerfully. The day's action was clouded by thoughts of the strike, but the market was buoyed by the news that the Icelandic strike force had decided to return to work. The market was buoyed by the news that the Icelandic strike force had decided to return to work.

set the tone. Initially showing losses of as much as 12 p.p., the market was later revived to narrow losses. The FT 100 rose 1.6 p.p. to 484.5. The market was buoyed by the news that the Icelandic strike force had decided to return to work.

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Bridgewater matches bid defence forecasts

By John Brennan
Bridgewater Estates comfortably matched the profits forecast outlined in its successful bid defence against Rothschild Investment Trust earlier this year with half-year pre-tax earnings up by over £100,000 on the results.

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T C Harrison buys Peterborough for £2m

By Tony May
In a deal worth about £2m, Sheffield-based T. C. Harrison is bidding for another Ford main dealer, Peterborough Motors, and has won the backing of the Peterborough board. The terms are nine Harrison shares for every 10 Peterborough and 75p cash for each preference share. Harrison puts the value of its offer at about 72p a share. This compares with 44p in the market before the shares were suspended in advance of the bid.

The Peterborough board is to accept the offer on its 41 per cent stake in the ordinary, and 75 per cent of the preference shares. Shareholders of Peterborough will be entitled to the final dividend declared at the annual meeting on Thursday.

Mr Harrison, chairman of Mr C. Read, Peterborough's chairman, and the two managing directors, Mr C. A. Read and Mr R. G. Read, are to join the board of Harrison, with Mr G. Read becoming vice-chairman. All the Peterborough directors will keep their jobs. Because Harrison intends to continue and expand both businesses, the rights of staff and employees will be fully safeguarded.

The two companies see the merger as a means of providing a stronger base for expansion, particularly as they have geographically complementary trading areas.

This fits in nicely with Harrison's philosophy. The annual meeting in June heard Mr T. C. Harrison, the chairman, explain that the group intended to reorganise the spread of its activities and concentrate on operations to the east of the Pennines. Takeovers were planned, and the present deal is the first.

The group has already enlarged its JCB franchise and had already concentrated its activities in the east, with the exception of its car and truck franchise in Newcastle-under-Lyme. This accounted for 5 per cent of group profits and was sold off to the Appleby Group in July for £180,000.

Mr Harrison expected the group to beat its £1.1m record profit this year. Last year Peterborough made £497,000, before tax.

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Low & Bonar to slow after bright start

By Alison Mitchell
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Foreign Exchange

The pound stayed strong against the dollar yesterday, closing seven pence higher at 127.2p, after a rise of 1.74p to 125.46p, with the Bank of England intervening firmly at the higher levels.

Most of the business occurred during the morning session as dealers endeavoured to level off books in front of the long holiday weekend. The Leyland shop stewards' reversal of the strike decision helped the pound in the afternoon.

Mild profit-taking developed in the dollar after Thursday's rally caused by the smaller than expected American trade deficit, but after a mid-session partial recovery, the currency fell away again to end close to the day's low in London at \$145.125.

Gold gained 50.75 pence an ounce to close in London at \$145.125.

Spot Position of Sterling

Forward Levels

Discount market

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Commodities

The London Metal Exchange closed after the morning session yesterday with the market steady and all metals unchanged.

Lead was steady at 23.50p, zinc at 23.50p, tin at 23.50p, copper at 23.50p, nickel at 23.50p, aluminium at 23.50p, and silver at 23.50p.

Money Market Rates

US \$ STRAIGHTS

Recent Issues

Bank Base Rates

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US \$ STRAIGHTS

Recent Issues

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US \$ STRAIGHTS

Recent Issues

Bank Base Rates

A late revival

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

well, isolate

MARKET REPORTS

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

SPORT.

Football

A look at the past will give some inspiration at Anfield

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

After the first two of the new footballers who have joined Wolverhampton Wanderers, the club's new signings have both of their opening matches. Hardly a serious indication of the new players' quality, but in eight months, but they may take some caustic comfort from the fact that they have both scored with four points from two games. In the top division, is Manchester United, who scored twice in their opening to Forest and Wolves. Last season they began confidently, beating Arsenal, Tottenham, and Manchester City, but they were then hit by Stoke City and Newcastle United and scoring four against Sunderland, but they were then hit by a goal that ended with the narrowest of escapes from being returned to the Championship. They were then hit at Coventry in their last match, did they remain to fight again.

But the new signings, who are manager Brian Clough, has a special reason to encourage his team to keep their eyes on the top of the first division. Forest are visited by Derby County, the club of his managerial career, and he hopes to use the day may return to some day. Derby, who hit the bottom of the Championship last season, have not been strange, with a 2-0

defeat of Coventry City, but a home draw with Ipswich Town.

Mr Clough does not admit to any tactical changes for the match for which he announces an unchanged team. Perhaps his only change is to expect to make him have mixed feelings about the outcome; like one of the players, he says he will be viewing the "Rams" from the other side of the fence.

Ipswich, if they had started with all the players who probably would have expected two points at Derby last Wednesday, but who were injured for Derby United, at Old Trafford, probably feeling that the time is not right for a change, will be glad that the teams they hope to challenge for this season's championship, will have scored two goals in their first two games even if not Jimmy Greaves, whose place remains with McCrery.

Clough says he does not realise that they beat Manchester United twice last season.

West Bromwich Albion may also find it hard to get into the near post can be an inspiration when they step out at Anfield on Saturday. They have won only three clubs to date a point. At this moment, though, Liverpool, with Heighway back to the team, and the return of Thompson again missing from the

defence, will be determined not to let points drop like words of encouragement to Manchester United.

Tusart, who scored three goals for Manchester City against Villa, was injured in the first half of the Ham because of a thigh injury. However, it would be pleasing to see him back in the team.

Football sometimes seems to have been jostled out of favour at Maine Road. Meanwhile, the United players are in good hand. Brooking, is still unfit, as is Bond.

The game moves on towards the time predicted for a players' strike, the running becomes less predictable. The referee has confirmed that the Football League would hold an extraordinary meeting. Although the subject of a players' strike has been raised, it is certain to be "freedom of contract" and a ballot is expected to be held.

Manchester United have a three quarters majority in favour of the players' demands.

Orient's manager, George Petch, yesterday left the club by mutual agreement. Two defeats in the last three games have led to the decision. The coaches Terry Angell, Terry Long and Aalan Stephenson have taken over the reins for today's match at Sunderland.

HOUSE DARTER quartet

From John Blunsden
Zandvoort, Aug. 26

Marlo Andreni, who frustration has failed to collect a single point in the last three races, lost the last three grands prix, dominated today's practice for Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix, and was reminiscent of his form in Belgium three months and six races ago.

At the end of the day he was named as the favorite to win, and after his closest rival, James Hunt—*an impressively wide margin on this fast 2.6-mile track*—he was named as the favorite to take the advantage which John Player Team Lotus seem to be holding at this halfway stage of the season. Andreni's closest colleague, Gunnar Nilsson, is fourth quickest, the last of an exclusive group of drivers who must manage to break the 50-second barrier today.

As in Belgium, the JPS Lotus seem to be scoring through their own hands, and the team is calling them to tackle Zandvoort's fast sweeps without the time-wasting under-steer which seems to be the cause of a great many of their last year's stand-bye track. Hunt is one of those beset by this problem, for which so far the McLaren

Rowing

Chances for seven British crews

From Jim Railton

Amsterdam, Aug. 26

Three British men's heavy-weight crews qualified today for Sunday's world championships finals. Tim Crooks in the single sculls with a victory over Karpainen, the Olympic Champion from Finland, won his semi-final. In the double sculls, the cockless pair finished second to East Germany without undue effort, and the British eight rode to the occasion to snatch third place behind the Czechs and behind East and West Germany. Britain, always well on course for the best performance in world championships now have seven crews contesting sides this weekend.

became the first man to break 6 min 50 sec — the *cut*. The second and third, Dreiske (East Germany) and Drea (Republic of Ireland) together with Dovgan, beat the world's best performance in 1988.

But within 20 minutes the sensation was replaced with the sight of Karppinen, strolling down the course and allowing Crooks to take the lead. The Englishman, who won Crooks with a last-minute sprint to cut back his lead to half a length.

Karppinen seems to be the man for the race: a spate of record-breaking speed today approximately three lengths slower than the other semi-final round. Crooks, too, along with Dreiske, Dovgan and Drea.

[illegible]

he lies third fastest, fractionally slower than Hunt. As an indication of the value of a grand prize, the story of a morale-booster for Jones, the victor in Austria, is sixth fastest in his Shadow, sandwiched between Laffine and Lauch.

John Watson is hoping to improve on his eighth place with his Martin Brabham, although the weather forecast for tomorrow suggests that the last hour of practice may be held on wet track, in which case today's times will effectively decide the grid order.

It is the case several drivers are in trouble, including Braballa and Schmpaan, of the Surtees team, who are just outside the fastest 25 drivers who will

The British eight must have surprised even themselves with their exceptional performance in the 1,000 metres, lying in fifth place, but they came like an avalanche to the fore in the 500 metres, where they won by 1.5 seconds. The French fell quickly and in the last 500 metres, Britain headed the barrier, although hearts were not in the race and they fell ahead again before succumbing.

Apart from the four British men, the women's double scull, Hieu and Hart qualified last weekend for the double sculls final; other British finalists are the men's double scull, the men's four and Ayling and Hart in the women's double sculls. The men's lightweight women's final, to be held tomorrow, will have at least five of the seven British finalists in action this weekend and the men's lightweight one-oared gold medal is expected.

There was a sensation in the first semi-final when a single sculler, who was the first sculler across the line, Douglass (Swedish Union)

[illegible][illegible]

Another driver yet to qualify is Jabouille in the turbo-charged Renault, which has had a day of testing but has not yet been restricted its tune on the track. First, the car's compressor was too noisy, and then, after a piece of metal broke the heat exchanger and became trapped under an engine valve.

Show jumping

Pyrah celebrates birthday with Hickstead success

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris
Malcolm Pyrah celebrated his 35th birthday yesterday by winning the 1987 British National Stakes at the start of the four-day British championship meeting which ends the show jumping season at the age of 35.

He and David Broome each qualified two horses for the jump-off of eight finalists. Broome and Pyrah were the only riders to qualify again in 46.2 sec, to which Pyrah responded in 45.4 on Askerus.

Pyrah's last round on Buttercup Boy hit the upright planks. Broome also caught out Deborah Jounsey on Speculator, before Broome himself was last on Howland in 43.6 sec. But Pyrah was the last word, taking John Massarella's Law Court, loaned to Peter Jones, to the front in 42.0 sec.

The four-year-old champion was bred by Paul MMEs, aged 18, who filled the first three places with horses that he reeds himself as "the best of his breed," just down the road from the course. He won on Landing Light, a grey by the late lamented Mr. J. H. B. Smith, who died in Yorkshire, which he broke in before Christmas.

Users looking forward to putting the clock back today to the £1,500 Lambert and Butler Jubilee Stakes, worth £500 each, will find the going good according to the 1945 rule book, with laths on the fences and a few hedges cut up behind them. Four faults for a knockdown will send the hindlegs. Feeling that they

By John Nicholls

It is probably overstating the obvious to say that the Round the World yacht race, which starts tomorrow, is something completely different. The second race of its kind and such events only come round every so long, so the shortage of people who want to compete; even now there are young men happily waiting beside the boats for a word from the skipper. The place of any crew member who may drop out.

The cash is willing, but few of the would-be sailors can supply the funds to match their enthusiasm. The expense is, of course, enormous. Usually the one requiring a large boat, but everything else is proportionately large. Imagine what the food bill

others such as Condoor, to be sailed by Robin Knox-Johnston and Leslie Williams, are provided by—for far—anonymous benefactors. The prize money will do well their bashful owners will come forward. If not they may wish to remain unknown. Condoor's chances are difficult to gauge. The two skippers are highly experienced, but the boat herself is new and largely untested. Her carbon-fibre hull can only be termed experimental and must be suspect for such a long and arduous voyage.

Chay Blyth's Great Britain II, skippered by Robert James, would be my favourite to win if she had the wind. But the boat has no complement is made up of 16 people who have each paid £4,000 for the privilege of taking part in

The Lambert and Butler five-year-old championship was won by Jack Harley, aged 17, from Little Cheverell, near Devizes, who with his father, James, close on 1,000 acres at War Defford, Dorset, have a small farm at Little Cheverell, having come south from Kromseshire four years ago. Jack, who has just got three good A-

levels and intends to read agricultural economics at Oxford, is taking a couple of years off first to show jump. His horse, the bay Wall Street, by Tynwald, came from Hugh Dunlop of Ballymena, co Antrim, who also supplied him with his jumping ponies. Wall Street won a Foxhunter competi-

FIVE-YEAR OLD CHAMPIONSHIP:
1. J. Harley's Wall Street; 2. Miss J. Monk's Kitchy Mac; 3. B. Crago's Autumn Folly.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHAMPIONSHIP:
1. Brendon Riding establishment's Landing Light (P. Miles); equal 3. Brendon Riding Establishment's Another Light and Golden Light.

JUNIOR FOXHUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP: National final; 1. Miss S. A. Burroughs; Royal Fox: five tied for second place.

responsible for the organization of the race, not only in Portsmouth, but in Cape Town, Auckland and Rio (the three ports to call) as well. They are also supplying beer to all the crews who want it.

One or two of the entries are financed by their skippers, while

Australia wins

Newport, Rhode Island, Aug. 26. Australia beat the Swedish yacht, Sverige, by 51sec yesterday in the first race of the best-of-seven final series to determine the challenger for the America's Cup.—Renter.

Weekend fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated.

First division

Aston Villa v Everton
Chelsea v Coventry
Leeds v Birmingham
Leicester v Bristol C
Liverpool v WBA
Manchester U v Ipswich
Middlesbrough v Newcastle
Norwich v QPR
Nottingham F v Derby
West Ham U v Manchester C
Wolves v Arsenal

Third division

Bradford C v Oxford U	
Cambridge U v Gillingham	
Carlisle v Plymouth	
Chertsgt v Peterboro* (3.15) ..	
Colchester v Chester	
Exeter v Bury	
Hereford v Trammere (5.30) ..	
Preston NE v Rotham	
Sheffield W v Walsall	
Swindon v Portsmouth	
Wrexham v Port Vale	

Scottish premier division
Aberdeen v Dundee U
Celtic v Motherwell
Hibernian v Clydebank
Partick T v Rangers
St Mirren v Ayr

Scottish first division
Alloa v St Johnstone
Dumbarton v Queen of South
Dundee v Stirling
East Fife v Airdrie
Hamilton v Arbroath

Tomorrow

Rugby League

LANCASHIRE: Second round: Rochdale v Horneley (3.30); Wigan v Whitehaven (4.15); Workington Town v Widnes (3.50).

FEDERATION CUP: Second round: Castleford v York (3.50); Keighley v Halifax (3.15); Wakefield v Featherstone.

FLOODLIGHT COMPETITION: Preliminary round: Halifax v Leigh (3.50).

TV highlights

REC 1

Cricket: England v Australia
11.15, 1.0, 2.20, 2.55,
about 3.30.

Second division

Second division
 Blackburn v Cardiff
 Bolton v Sheffield U
 Brighton v Middlesbrough
 Bristol R v Fulham
 Charlton v Blackpool
 C Palace v Hull C
 Oldham v Luton
 Southampton v Mansfield
 Stoke v Burnley
 Sunderland v Orient
 Tottenham H v Notts Co

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Chertsey v
 Hoddeston; Exth and Bevedere v
 Wotton; Geyva v Chalfont B Peter; Har-
 row v Bury; Mearns; Epsom v Kings-
 crosby; Marlow v Leyton Whinney; Red-
 nith v Egham; Uxbridge v Billerica;

fourth division

Aldershot	Doncaster
Exeter	Reading
Halfway	Northampton
Newport	Huddersfield
Rochdale	Darlington
South	Hartlepool
Gwent	Barnsley
Torquay	Wimbledon (7.30)
Watford	York City

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division—Aldershot, Bournemouth, Exeter, Huddersfield, Reading, Southampton, Torquay, Watford, Weymouth. Second division—Barnsley, Bournemouth, Exeter, Huddersfield, Reading, Southampton, Torquay, Watford, Weymouth. Third division—Aldershot, Bournemouth, Exeter, Huddersfield, Reading, Southampton, Torquay, Watford, Weymouth. Fourth division—Aldershot, Bournemouth, Exeter, Huddersfield, Reading, Southampton, Torquay, Watford, Weymouth.

[illegible]

Football: Preview (12.25).
 Racing: Goodwood races at 1.45, 2.15, 2.45, 3.15.
 Bowls: EBA championships (1.50).
 Equestrian: Hickstead show jumping (about 3.20).
 Football: Match of the Day (10.15).
BBC 2
 Cricket: England v Australia (4.40, 11.35).
BBC (comoror)
 Athletics: Britain many (about 3.35).
 Equestrian: Hickstead show jumping (about 3.35).
BBC 2 (comoror)
 Cricket: John Player League (1.55).
IBA
 Football: Preview (12.35).
 Racing: Newmarket races at 1.30, 2.0, 2.30, 3.0; Newcastle races at 1.45, 2.15, 2.45.
 Speedway: World individual championship (3.10).

WILSON AND EIDON V BURMAN.

Rugby League
YORKSHIRE CUP: Leeds v Hull.

Basingstoke, Aylesbury v Addlestone.
Boonar Rogla v Crawley. Cheshamford
v Hounslow. Dorchester v Folkestone
and Shep. Poole v Tonbridge Salisbury
v Romford. Taunton Town v Margate.
Waterloooville v Trowbridge:-

Stone v. Bishop's Stortford; Slough
 Town v. Tooting and Mitcham; Southall
 and EB v. Croydon; Sialsma Town v
 Kingstonian; Tilbury v. Walthamstow
 Avenue; Woking v. Enfield; Wycombe
 Wanderers v. Leatherhead.

Wrestling: Morecambe promotion (4.0).
IBA—tomorrow
Football: Big Match (2.15).

age group when
menes. butterfly
—In 1 min 1760

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Lowering the pitch—or how to be less tense

The GSR-1 Biofeedback Monitor is a short, snappy name for the Galvanic Skin Response Meter, etc., etc. A product of the research and work of clinical psychologists and engineers whose talents have been channelled into the lines of stress and stress reduction. It is aimed at teaching its owners the techniques that reduce tension—it almost gives me tension to read and write all about it, this Biofeedback Training Device. But I will not knock it because, in an odd way, it can and does work and might be a marvellous idea for those who are less good at shedding stress than I believe I am. However, they also say that stress and tension build up slowly and imperceptibly so maybe I should take my Biofeedback experiments very seriously.

You place your hand over the shaped fine walnut, and nicely grained it is, and let your fingers lie in the two gilded brass grooves while your hand loosely rests on the gold plating—a nice touch and a nice feel, but it was actually chosen to make the GSR-1 durable as well as handsome. The GSR emits a gentle but high-pitched tone—tensions raise the tone and true relaxation lowers it. You listen and you become aware of the changes in tension so that you learn gradually to relax and to recognize your own tenseness—but do watch that trying to relax is not so difficult that it makes you tense. Remove your fingers and the tone dies instantly because the magic box is activated only by your touch on the finger plates.

Electronics account for the GSR's sensitivity, compactness and reliability. With it you get a cassette, usable on any tape recorder, which is an instruction manual that makes sense rather than mere fun of the thing.

I do find this hard to write about and I can make no real constructive comments. It works. It does encourage you to learn how to relax and it does, in fact, do everything it claims in such respects. But I am afraid I just never seem to have time to remember it or to use it. I rush home to this or that and when that wonderful moment finally comes of being able to flop because there really is nothing that has to be done, then I do flop. I have learnt that I am more tense before that moment of flop; and that the tone gets higher and tenser when the phone rings yet again; that I am wonderfully relaxed in bed, watching TV, listening to radio or cassettes; but I did know all that and I am not a hundred per cent sure of how the GSR can help me because, to be honest, I am not meeting it and its potential halfway. But maybe I should. Maybe I am building up tensions.

You can read and learn a lot more about it by writing to Andrew Stephens (1847) Company, 41 Dickson Road, Blackpool FY1 2AP (tel 0253-23755). I do not want to be unfair to something which has won the accolades of medical and overworked businessmen. It costs £30 plus 40p postage plus £2.43 VAT.



The case for taking a shower

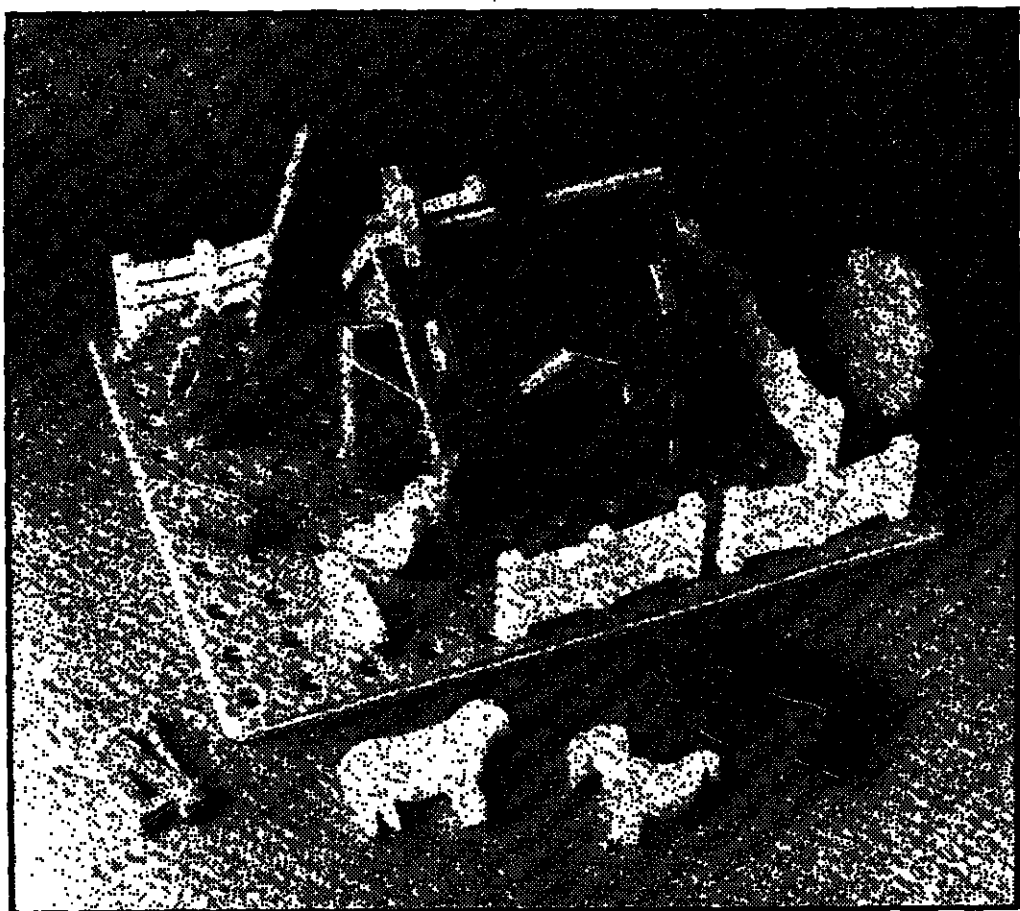
I not only like showers, I often believe them to be superior to baths—for someone else, that is, since I wish nothing to substitute that long soak in a deep, hot bath. Has it ever struck you that large people are lucky because they can have deep baths in less water because of the displacement factor which was, you may recall, what led to the Archimedeian "Eureka" incident. But I like showers for the youngsters who wash off mud and sand which otherwise leaves a scratchy deposit on the bath base; for elderly or disabled people as long as they sit safely beneath the spray; for speed; for cleaning off mud that should not merely be washed back into the bath water in which you sit; and for economy, both of energy and water.

Having said which, I stick to my love of a bath when I recommend to others the Instaflo showers, power saver heaters which heat only the water you use and locally at that so that there is no wasted heat running along pipes. It is surprising how many showers can be fitted into homes where you may never have thought the plumbing and base tray possible to fit—the under-stairs cupboard, unused end of a corridor, outside loo, former pantry and so on are only a few of the places into which showers have been installed and more and more people are now installing the instant shower, with the local heater, than plumbing the shower into the main hot water system. I am assured that some 250,000 homes had showers or extra showers installed and that about two-thirds were on the instant, local

heat systems. I cannot disprove what the shower people tell me but I do know that many families must be delighted by the shortening or the disappearance of that morning queue to pre-work or pre-school cleanliness.

For details of Instaflo and their Trimad Power Saver installations write to the company at Instaflo House, Dellbow Road, Crowthorne, Wokingham, Berkshire RG4 0SQ and call upon one of their staff of 230 who work directly for the customers. Prices—well allow from £190 but please don't under estimate the extra installation costs which must vary according to the site, water pressure and a host of other irritating setbacks or encouraging aids.

At the Reed Building Products Centre, 20 Great Portland Street, London, W1 you can wander over 3,500 square feet to study eleven bathroom and allied installations together with tiles for walls and floors. The showers are by my old friends, Walker Crossweller, who once did an excellent job for me but failed to instil a shower on a second entry because getting the pressure was going to cost more than wanted to spend. However, their first-floor shower is terrific and, while delighted that it is not in my personal bathroom, I wonder why I ever pondered the decision instead of having it done at once. See the display along with the environments from Monday to Saturday between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm or up to 12.30 on Saturdays. Or, naturally enough, write for advice, leaflets and suchlike in the now more-distant future than we thought a couple of years ago, we shall probably all pay our water rates on a metered basis, buying only what we use and paying it every penny which might shock some of us, is worth getting used to showers and economy now.



Down on the farm

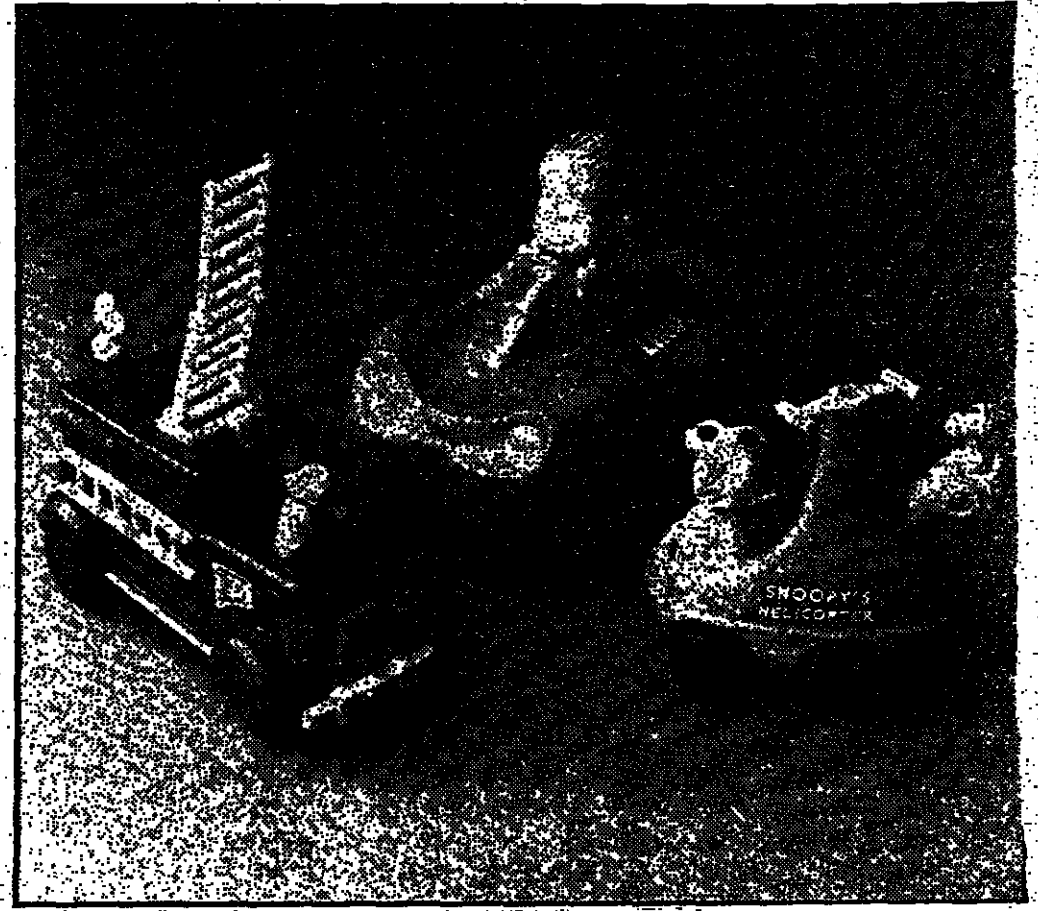
■ A farm that can be quickly stored and pegged together; that can be adapted to changing needs and sizes; and that can be packed away in a favourite Mothercare shop or by post (for 32p extra on the very reasonable price of £3.25).

The building components and animals are made of soft, non-toxic Polyethylene in varied colours to peg on to a green base. An easy fantasy for small, young fingers to make and well packed in strong, stiff, see-through plastic, this is a good kit to cheer the young ones left alone at home when older brothers and sisters start school again. Mothercare branches are everywhere and the head office for mail orders is Mothercare by Post, Cherry Tree Road, Watford WD2 5SH.

Lovable Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy and the Peanuts squad have been given wheels so that they can get around more easily to their cast circle of fans. See the Piano Mobile, Snoopy's own doghouse, Charlie Brown's mound mobile, Snoopy's bath-tub, Lucy's car, Snoopy on a skateboard, and ditto on a fire-engine (with Woodstock in the back), the helicopter shown here with Snoopy doing his great role of the Red Baron, Linus in his car and all the fun of the world-famous cartoon characters.

The prices are low, starting at around 80p for characters and upwards for their sophisticated vehicles. See them at all branches of John Menzies, Hamleys of Regent Street, London, and many of the leading department stores including Harrods, Rackhams of Birmingham, Kendal Milne of Manchester, Fenwicks of Newcastle, etc. If you cannot find them, appeal to Wiggins Teape (Toys and Crafts), 30 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4EA.

Photographs by Trevor Sutton



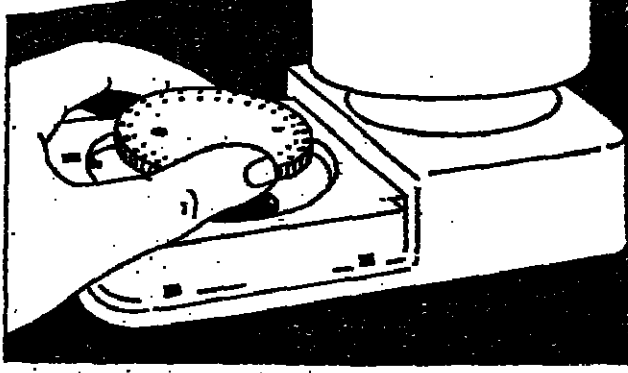
These handmade pictures are of wool, cunningly laid on to a beeswax base which is then backed with wood so that it hardens firmly, puts up a smooth front and hangs on the wall—the work of the Huichil Indians of the Mexican Sierra Madre. At £2 each (plus 35p) they can be posted anywhere in the British Isles or collected (sans the 35p) from La Cucaracha Galleries at 6 Halkin Arcade, just off West Halkin Street, London SW1. Produced by adults for adults, I think they make good hangings for children's rooms and teach them to appreciate colour and perhaps to copy the technique or at least to start on wool or collage pictures in felt, which children do so admirably because their inhibitions do not get in the way. How I enjoyed a photographic drawing by a child of a bearded, gowned man standing on a mountain and sprinkling his large tin of Sarsa salt on to the stormy lake beneath him—that was a child's translation of "Christ stilling the waters of Galilee". For the uninitiated salt stills the soap or detergent suds if they threaten to overflow the washing machines.

These paintings, which depict animals, fruits, flowers, and rather more abstract designs are colourful and naive. They are only a small part of the lovely merchandise in the galleries, where you can see the traditional Mexican wooden chandeliers, lanterns, wrought-iron pieces and accessories, handblown glass, primitively-carved furniture, and pottery made by methods and traditions dating back some 4,000 years with rich colours and interesting glazes.

For years I have set time switches to various lights, lamps and noise appliances to turn them off and on at unpredictable times so that the house looks constantly occupied although it is so rarely anything else. Now you can buy bedside or desk-side lights that do the same job. Because of the automatic on/off switch, it can be used as an alarm call for the deaf who are often ultra-sensitive to light, a nursery light for children, or for readers in bed who fall asleep over their books and papers but will not wake up in the small hours to a brilliant light because it has switched off.

There are two or three models about. The one photographed here is from Smith Industries, of Cricklewood Works, London NW2. It costs £12.95 at Fortnum and Mason, which sells it like hot cakes and can post it anywhere in Britain for an extra 80p.

The other is more rounded and has a clock to tell the time (by Pico of Princess Street, Manchester). It would be my choice and it is called the Timelight as opposed to Smith's Timeline and costs £15.50. A bit confusing but Fortnum's service, advice and postal services are always excellent. They both look neat, are both compactly small and both obviously reliable.



As much for young children as Snoopy or the Mothercare farm is the eternally-beloved Lego, now becoming so much less architectural in every way and, this year, actually joining the Westerners and Indians (yes, cowboys, but one does long to find a change from some of those over-used words). The whole Indian family comes to about £1.95—the cowboys to 65p. And, as the child grows older, the pieces might even be mixed up with others to make something completely different.

Less "new" but not yet in all tiny hands are the forklift trucks and bulldozers (this page last year) complete with working parts, so this is just a reminder. The helicopter, among the technical sets for the over-mine, fascinates me with their square shapes and their oddly cartoon-like effects.

Among the best kids' stuff I know, I have never known Lego to be anything but precision made to fit and fit for ever but, when my grandson, aged eight once was convinced he had a bad piece, he sent it back on his own accord without a stamp as I later discovered, and got a replacement with a nice letter. Now, at 12, he still loves Lego. Widely distributed from British Lego, Wrexham, North Wales LL13 9UH.



Drawings by Lyn Gaby



■ Some weeks ago I wrote about the services of the Electrical Association of Women in testing domestic equipment and helping consumers to find their way through the maze of brands, types and sizes. The Manager of Islington's Consumer Advice Centre in Seven Sisters Road wrote to remind me that this kind of help is part of the work of the 120 Consumer Advice Centres all over the country. I can assure you that not all of them do actually provide pre-shopping advice, but I have to admit that most of them do, and do it very well indeed

so that I accept her gentle rebuke. In fact these centres try to aim to advise on almost any product and pay close attention to individual needs, circumstances and lack of financial resources. The advisers do not choose but try to ensure that consumers have all possible data from which to make well-judged choices of their own after friendly chats and with the wealth of a mass of market information on tap. I need hardly stress that all such centres are totally impartial, and I think most people would find the service educational. One of the

Islington projects, for example, is a window display of food guidance to managing on a tight budget and making nutritious meals. Another was a bilingual guide to consumer rights and retailer responsibilities worth over, which was free to be really useful as though live in Islington with very knowledge of English.

Mrs Janice Walsh's Cent at 37 Seven Sisters Road, don't BAX (01-253 3141) example should prompt at who needs advice to track her local centre at once (consumer services will be help).

■ I am very pleased to note that a good safe, white plastic cover for electric sockets is on the market. I know there are pretty safe sockets where covers shield the entry holes, but you never know with children. I have of them might team up to poke screwdrivers into the three holes simultaneously and then, in any case, the land is full of old-fashioned electricity sockets and many will benefit from this white, plastic cover.

To fit it, slightly unscrew the holding screws of the socket until the latter is about 1/4 of an inch from the wall. Slide the hinged back plate of the cover down around the socket and tighten the screws again until the plate

is firmly held. Pull over the front of cover, which notches shut by means of a catch on each side. To open, these catches need to be pressed simultaneously. Har explained, but well worth inspection. The cover is two young men with young men who designed with feeling and who have children can pull out plugs and their fingers in for certain electrocution by touching the pins behind a loose. The price is thoroughly realistic at around 15p (p & p) and a double socket version of the way. Made by and obtainable from Vallison Dean, Barton Manor, Bristol BS40 2SS0664.

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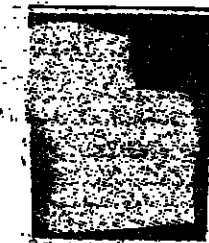
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